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ANNALS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY CLUB



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TORONTO

ANNALS
OF THE
ROYAL SOCIETY CLUB

THE RECORD OF A LONDON DINING-CLUB IN THE
EIGHTEENTH & NINETEENTH CENTURIES

BY
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PAST-PRESIDENT OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

WITH CONTEMPORARY PORTRAITS

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PREFACE

THE Royal Society Club has been living and active for at least a hundred and seventy-four years. It has been presided over by a succession of eminent men whose names and work are held in honour. Its members have included not only leaders in many departments of scientific investigation and of applied science, but also representatives of literature and art, of the Navy and the Army, and of every branch of public life. From the beginning it has invited to its table visitors from all sections of society, devoting special care to the entertainment of distinguished foreigners who have from time to time landed on our shores. Of its meetings, its dinners and its guests it has kept ample records from the very beginning until now. These documents, while they afford glimpses of habits and customs that have passed away, throw light also on some of the social relationships of not a few of the prominent men of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The first attempt to put this history into writing was made by Admiral William Henry Smyth, F.R.S., who in the summer of the year 1858 was requested by his brother Members of the Club to undertake the task. He prepared a *Sketch of the Rise and Progress of the Royal Society Club* which was printed for the Club in 1860. It forms a thin quarto volume of 84 pages, with *An Additional Word* of ten pages more, appended in the spring of the following year. As its title denotes, this work was merely a sketch, based almost entirely on the minutes of the Annual General Meetings. But, full of the spirit of good-fellowship, it gave a pleasing picture of the life of the Club.

After the lapse of nearly fifty years, during which some important incidents had occurred in the Club's experience, a desire arose among the Members that a continuation of Admiral Smyth's narrative should be prepared. Accordingly the late Mr. Robert H. Scott, who had been Treasurer for seventeen years, and was about to retire from office, was asked if he would supply such a continuation. But his health had already begun to fail, and he was never able to undertake the task.

Meanwhile the stock of Admiral Smyth's volume was nearly exhausted. The opportunity seemed to the Members to be favourable for the preparation of a new and possibly fuller history of the Club, and they honoured me by the proposal that I should take the work in hand. As I had given a good deal of attention to the history of the Royal Society, I was naturally attracted by the subject of the Society's Dining Club; but to enable me to judge of the nature and extent of the material available for literary treatment, the Senior Treasurer at the beginning of last year put into my hands the whole of the Archives of the Club. I soon saw that the material was abundant and possessed sufficient interest to be worthy of being treated in considerable detail. And I thereupon embarked on the work.

After full deliberation it appeared to me that the most satisfactory way of dealing with the records would be to take them year by year in the form of annals. In such a procedure certain repetitions would obviously be unavoidable, and might sometimes be a little irksome. But this defect would, I thought, be more than compensated by the greater scope that would be afforded in tracing the progress of the Club, in following the careers of its individual members, and above all, in doing justice to what has all along been a distinctive feature of the Club—its hospitality. From the very beginning the Club has invited to its table representatives, both native and foreign, of every department of public life and every branch of scientific enquiry. In its remarkably varied gallery of guests, the same individual sometimes

appears at intervals of years, and we seem to see the successive stages of his progress from the outset of his career up to the full renown of his fame. The life and activity of the Club are thus connected with the statesmen and politicians, the sailors and soldiers, the navigators and explorers, the men of science, of letters and of art, the engineers, inventors and discoverers of each successive generation, not of this country only, but of many foreign lands.

As a mere list of names would have had comparatively limited interest for most readers, I have sought to enliven my narrative by inserting brief biographical sketches of the more eminent Members of the Club, and of the more prominent among their guests. For the details given of these worthies I have availed myself of such contemporary records as those of Lord Chesterfield, Horace Walpole, James Boswell, Madame D'Arblay, Sir Henry Holland and others, as well as the volumes of the *Annual Register*, *Gentleman's Magazine* and similar journals. I have been largely indebted to the admirable *Dictionary of National Biography*, which we owe to the sagacity and enterprise of George Smith. For the foreign visitors I have chiefly availed myself of the comprehensive *Nouvelle Biographie Générale*, published by Firmin Didot Frères, and the *Obituary Notices* of the Royal Society.

To add to the interest of the volume I have inserted portraits of some of the persons mentioned in the text. The Royal Society possesses a vast collection of engraved portraits of its Fellows and eminent contemporaries, from the beginning of its existence down to the present time. I have gone through this collection, and have selected the engravings here given, which have been reproduced from the originals at the rooms of the Royal Society by the Swan Electric Engraving Company, under the careful supervision of the managing director, Mr. D. Cameron-Swan. In the List of Plates such information is given as has been obtainable regarding the painters and engravers of the original portraits.

Like all such documents, the records of the Royal Society Club bring vividly before us some of the habits and customs

of our fathers. We learn from them that in the middle of the eighteenth century men sat down to dinner at the hour when they now take luncheon, and supped when they now dine. We can trace the slow retreat of dinner in steps of half an hour or an hour at a time, each pause lasting for some years before the next move was made. We see that our great grandfathers showed little of that passion for holidays which is now the vogue. There was no general annual migration of a large portion of the community in summer and autumn to country quarters and foreign lands; hence, as the patients did not leave town, the fashionable physicians remained there also. The long summer vacation and the recesses now enjoyed at Easter, Whitsuntide and Christmas were unrecognised by the Club, and were ultimately adopted only after a struggle lasting for many years. One of the most curious features of the Club records is to be found in its dinner-registers, where a detailed bill of fare is given for every dinner, week by week, in the course of more than forty years of the eighteenth century, affording to the deipnosophist a lively picture of the gastronomic art of the time in England.

It should be added here that this volume has been prepared, first of all, for the present and future Members of the Club of which it relates the history. The question was considered whether it should be printed only for private circulation, but the feeling prevailed that as its subject was so intimately bound up with the history of the Royal Society there would probably be Fellows of the Society who, although not Members of the Club, might wish to possess the book, while it might even find some readers in the world outside. The decision was accordingly made in favour of publication.

SHEPHERD'S DOWN, HASLEMERE,
26th April, 1917.

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CHAPTER I

EARLY SOCIAL LIFE OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

IN the first half of the seventeenth century the group of remarkable men, who in 1650 laid the first foundation of the Royal Society, were in the habit of assembling weekly for the purpose of discussing questions in physics and other parts of human learning, and of making experiments in the spirit of the New or Experimental Philosophy. These meetings were most frequently held in some tavern, particularly the *Bull Head* in Cheapside, but sometimes at the lodging of one of the company, and in term time at Gresham College, or other place not far distant. When the organisation of the Royal Society was completed by the grant of a Royal Charter from Charles II. on 15th July 1662, the movement in favour of the active prosecution of scientific enquiry received a great impulse. The meetings for discussion and experiment were held regularly at Gresham College, where a suite of apartments was provided as the home of the Society. The philosophers, thus launched on their career of observation and experimentation, were, however, convivial Englishmen who, associated as fellow-workers in scientific pursuits, became personal friends. The intimacy thus created could not be restricted to the meeting-room or the laboratory, but would necessarily demand the genial intercourse of the table. It was the Age of Taverns. Men felt then, as Johnson felt a century later, that "there is no private house in which people can enjoy themselves so well, as at a capital tavern," and that there is "nothing

which has yet been contrived by man, by which so much happiness is produced as by a good tavern or inn.”¹

Accordingly the philosophers of the seventeenth century, following the universal practice of the day, repaired to these places of entertainment, where they dined or supped, but where at the same time they would often engage in the discussion of subjects in science, and would then do so with greater freedom and vivacity than at their more formal assemblies in Gresham College. It would appear that from the beginning these convivial gatherings were of two kinds. In the first place, the Fellows as a body dined together in celebration of their anniversary on St. Andrew's Day (30th November), to which they went, each with a St. Andrew's Cross fastened on his hat, for the purpose of electing their Council and office-bearers for the ensuing year. The dinner came after the election, and could be attended by every Fellow who so desired. These festivals, which still survive, were of a more or less formal character when personages of consequence in the community, as well as private friends, were invited. In the early days of the Society they were held at the noted tavern in Abchurch Lane, City, kept by a Frenchman named Pontac. More than thirty years after the start of the Royal Society, John Evelyn records, on 30th November 1696, that after the Anniversary Meeting with its elections, “we all dined at Pontac's as usual.”²

¹ Boswell's *Life of Johnson* (Birkbeck Hill's Edit. vol. ii. p. 451). Mr. Wheatley in his *Pepysiana* (p. 191) gives a list of more than a hundred taverns referred to by Samuel Pepys as having been visited by him. In this list it is noteworthy how often the same favourite name for a Tavern was repeated in different parts of London. Thus there are four Taverns with the sign of “The Crown,” six with that of “The Sun,” seven with that of “The Swan,” and seven with that of the “King's Head.”

² See Evelyn's Diary under date 30th November 1680; 29th November 1688; 30th November 1693. On 13th July 1683 he states—“I had this day much discourse with Monsieur Pontac, son to the famous and wise prime President of Bordeaux. This gentleman was owner of that excellent vignoble of Pontac and O'Brien, from whence come the choicest of our Bordeaux wines.” The best French claret was named after Pontac. Thus Matthew Prior in his *Hind and Panther transvers'd*:

Drawers must be trusted, through whose hands convey'd
You take the Liquor, or you spoil the Trade:
For sure those Honest Fellows have no knack
Of putting off stum'd Claret for Pontack.

“Dialogues of the Dead,” etc., Waller's Edit. p. 26.

In the second place, besides these more stately annual dinners, there arose the informal, and often improvised, dinners and suppers, when, after a meeting of the Society for ordinary business, a few of the Fellows would adjourn for friendly intercourse to some tavern in the neighbourhood. Such social gatherings were much enjoyed by Samuel Pepys, who has left his impressions of some of those which he attended. On the day of his admission as a Fellow of the Royal Society (15th February 1664-5) he attended the meeting at the College and heard a discussion with experiments on the nature of fire. "After this being done, they to the Crown Taverne behind the 'Change, and there my Lord [Brouncker, President] and most of the company to a club supper; Sir P. Neale, Sir R. Murray, Dr. Clerke, Dr. Whistler, Dr. Goddard and others of most eminent worth. Here excellent discourse till ten at night, and then home." Again, on 4th June 1666, Pepys records:—"To the Crown behind the 'Change, and then supped at the Club with my Lord Brouncker, Sir J. Ent and others of Gresham College." The entry under date 21st November 1667 was fuller and more enthusiastic than ever. "Took coach to Arundel House where the meeting of Gresham College [that is, the Royal Society] was broke up; but there meeting Creed, I with him to the taverne in St. Clement's Churchyard, where was Dean Wilkins, Dr. Whistler, Dr. Floyd, a divine admitted, I perceive, this day, and other brave men." Dean Wilkins, who next year became Bishop of Chester, was one of the most illustrious among the original band that founded the Royal Society. On this occasion he appears to have been the life of the company, with his fund of anecdotes and his circumstantial account of an experiment about to be performed by the Gresham College philosophers, when the blood of a sheep was to be transfused into the body of a poor debauched man. Pepys must have been beyond measure delighted with such a recital. He adds: "Their discourse was very fine; and if I should be put out of my office I do take great content in the liberty I shall be at, of frequenting these gentlemen's company."

On 2nd April 1668, after attending the meeting of the Society and being induced to contribute £40 towards the building of a College as the future home of the Royal Society, Pepys states that "thence with Lord Brouncker and several of them to the King's Head Taverne by Chancery Lane, and there did drink and eat and talk and, above the rest, I did hear of Mr. Hooke and my Lord an account of the reason of concords and discords in musique, which they say is from the equality of vibrations; but I am not satisfied in it, but will at my leisure think of it more, and see how far that do go to explain it. So, late at night, home."

These and other passages in the journal of the great Diarist show that, for some years after the foundation of the Royal Society, it was a common practice for the Fellows to dine or sup together, not merely on St. Andrew's day, the anniversary of the Society, but at all times of the year, and that these social gatherings were known as "Club-suppers." In one of the entries just quoted allusion is made to a "Dr. Floyd, a divine admitted this day." No one of the name of Floyd or Lloyd belonged at that time to the Royal Society. The "admission" must therefore have been to the convivial union at the tavern. It would thus seem that some degree of care was taken to keep the company select by imposing some formality in the case of outsiders who were not Fellows, such as requiring them to be introduced by the President or one of the Fellows who usually formed the social company.

That at the beginning of the eighteenth century there was a recognised convivial club connected with the Royal Society may be inferred from a scurrilous anonymous volume which then appeared with the title—"A compleat and humorous Account of all the remarkable Clubs and Societies in the Cities of London and Westminster, from the R—I S—y down to the Lumber-troop etc." The author was afterwards ascertained to be the notorious Edward (or Ned) Ward, keeper of a London tavern, who published a number of pamphlets in prose and verse, distinguished above all for their extraordinary coarseness and

indecenty, and who had the distinction of being put in the pillory for an attack on the government. Not only does the name of the Royal Society, slightly veiled, appear on the title-page, but the Account begins with a description of the Virtuoso's Club,¹ from which a few passages may be quoted. It commences thus:—"This eminent Club was at first establish'd by some of the principal Members of the *Royal Society*, and held every *Thursday* at a certain Tavern in *Cornhill*, where the Vintner that kept it, has according to his Merit, made a fortunate Step from his Bar to his Coach, and has surrendered his House to so diligent a Son, whose prudent Management, winning Deportment, and indefatigable Industry, have made him a singular Example to the whole Fraternity, and will, undoubtedly, be attended with the like Prosperity that has so fully rewarded the Pains and Vigilance of his generous Father. The chief Design of the aforementioned Club, was to propagate new Whims, advance mechanic Exercises, and to promote useless, as well as useful Experiments. . . . No sooner were the patch'd Assembly met together on their Club-Night, but every Man, in hopes to advance his Reputation would be so wonderfully busy about one Experiment or other, that the very Elements could not rest for 'em; And the whole Company divide themselves into so many several Cabals, that they sat like Train Band-Men at a Captain's Treat, where there are four or six appointed to a Bottle. Some by those hermetical Bellows, called an *Æolipile*, would

¹ This term "Virtuoso," originally employed as a not uncomplimentary designation for natural philosophers, came in the end to acquire a depreciatory implication—a result largely attributable to the vagaries of mere curio-hunters who collected all sorts of "rarities" in natural objects and antiquities, often with little knowledge or discrimination. The pursuits of such men in the eager acquisition of what the world in general regarded as in great part rubbish, laid them open to the satire of the literary critics, who classed these collectors with the philosophers as "Virtuosi." The craze for collections of this character was not confined to Britain, but was rife also on the Continent. It was recorded in 1763 that "the folly of the French Virtuoso's at Paris is arrived at a great pitch. Collecting natural curiosities is in high vogue and to that degree that no one is esteemed *du bon ton* who has not a collection. . . . The collections seem more like raree shows than like anything of a scientific nature." *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1763, p. 230.

be trying with an empty Bottle whether Nature would admit of a *Vacuum*. Others, like busy Chandlers, would be handling their Scales to nicely discover the Difference in the Weight between Wine and Water [etc., etc.].

Thus Vertuoso's make a Pother
About their Whims to please each other ;
And wondrous Maggots will advance ye
That have no Being but in Fancy."

The oldest surviving document in the archives of the Royal Society Club bears the date of 27th October 1743. But there can be no doubt that a recognised organisation of members, subscriptions and regular meetings existed before that date. In the "Sketch of the Rise and Progress of the Royal Society Club" by Admiral W. H. Smyth, there is appended "An Additional Word," containing a memorandum from the manuscript collection of the Rev. Sir Richard Kaye, preserved in the British Museum, which affirms that the Club began about the year 1731 under the auspices of the illustrious Dr. Halley. This memorandum is here reproduced, but, as will be shown, its historical value is hardly so great as the Admiral believed it to be.

"Institution of the Philosophical Club, from Sir Joseph Ayloffe, an original Member, communicated July 26, 1776.

"Dr. Halley used to come on a Tuesday from Greenwich the Royal Observatory to Child's Coffee-House, where literary people met for conversation, and he dined with his sister, but sometimes staid so long that He was too late for Dinner, and they likewise at their own home.

"They then agreed to go to a house in Dean's Court between an Ale-house and a Tavern, now a Stationer's shop, where there was a great Draft of porter, but not drank in the House. It was kept by one Reynell. It was agreed that one of the Company should go to Knights and buy fish in Newgate Street, having first informed himself how many meant to stay and dine.

"The Ordinary and Liquor usually came to half-a-crown, and the Dinner only consisted of Fish and Pudding. Dr. Halley never eat any Thing but Fish, for he had no Teeth.

"The number seldom exceeded five or six. Sir Joseph Ayloffe and Dr. Watson were original members. It began to take place about 1731.

"Soon afterwards Reynell took the King's Arms in St. Paul's

Church Yard and desired Dr. Halley to go with him there. He and others consented and they then began to have a little meat. On Dr. Halley's Death, Martin Folkes took the Chair.

"They afterwards removed to the Mitre for the convenience of the situation with respect to the Royal Society, and as It was near Crane Court and numbers wished to become Members, It was necessary to give it a form.

"The number was fixed at Forty Members, one of whom was to be Treasurer and Secretary and three official Members, Secretaries of the Royal Society.

TOASTS.

The King	King of Poland ¹
The Queen	The President (<i>if absent</i>)
Arts and Sciences	Lord Charles Cavendish
Royal Philosophers."	

In printing for the first time this communication of Sir Joseph Ayloffe made in 1776, Admiral Smyth pointed out that it contains some obvious inaccuracies, yet he was disposed to accept it as substantially trustworthy and to regard the Royal Society Club as having been actually established by Dr. Halley.

The document purports to have been communicated by its writer in 1776, that is, some thirty or forty years after the occurrence of the incidents to which it refers. It was obviously written from recollection, and without reference to authorities by which lapses of memory could be checked.

The meetings of the Royal Society took place on Thursday and not on Tuesday. Sir Joseph Ayloffe styles himself "an original member." But the Club minute-book clearly shows that he was elected on 23rd August 1744 and subsequently lost his membership from non-attendance, his place being filled up on 27th July 1749.² He says in his memorandum that the meetings "began to take place about 1731." But the evidence quoted above shows that there were dinners and suppers of the Fellows of the Royal Society long before that year. Sir Joseph Ayloffe was elected into

¹ How this monarch in particular came to be one of the Club's toasts is suggested in the record of the year 1754.

² He was afterwards balloted for and re-elected into the Club on 25th July 1771.

the Royal Society on 27th May 1731, and he may about that time have taken part in some of the social gatherings of the Fellows. His weak memory seems to have led him to believe that the organised Dining Club began then, and that his much later connection with it went back to the same period. Admiral Smyth cites convincing evidence that the dinners which drew Halley on Thursdays to Child's Coffee-house were attended by him many years before he became Astronomer Royal and lived at Greenwich. There are extant letters of Flamsteed to Abraham Sharp, in one of which, dated as far back as 1712, allusion is made to Halley and his associates at the gatherings in that tavern. The Admiral pronounces a well-deserved eulogium of Halley when he describes him as "at once proudly eminent as an astronomer, a mathematician, a physiologist, a naturalist, a scholar, an antiquary, a poet, a meteorologist, a geographer, a navigator, a nautical surveyor and a truly social member of the community." But when he claims that this illustrious man was also the founder of the Royal Society Club his enthusiasm has undoubtedly carried him further than the evidence warrants.

The truth would appear to be that informal dinners or suppers, such as took place in the time of Pepys, still continued in the first half of the eighteenth century. These were attended not only by Fellows of the Royal Society, but by friends whom they brought with them, and even sometimes by intruders who chose to dine or sup at the same tavern and, without any introduction, thrust themselves into what they recognised to be a varied and pleasant company. If the President of the Society was present he would naturally be asked to take the chair, if in such improvised gatherings any chairman were desired. But the miscellaneous character of these assemblages coming at last to be too inconvenient, the need would be felt for some organisation that would allow a small number of men of congenial tastes and habits to come into closer touch with each other, and would exclude undesirable visitors.

The earliest trace of such an attempt to obtain more privacy is to be found in the document of 27th October

1743 already alluded to. But some kind of organisation would appear to have been tried before the fresh start recorded in that document. In the Club's first Minute-book, under date January 3rd, 1750,¹ in the presidency of Martin Folkes, the following minute occurs :—

“ At this meeting it was proposed that David Papillon Esq. [F.R.S. 1720] who had been an ancient member of this Club, before the present Establishment (of which he was the first proposer), and the method of standing the Ballot as a Candidate being uncertain, he desired to be admitted a Member on paying the old fine and an arrear of two shillings; and in consideration of services done this Society his request was complied with, and it was resolved that this election should not be a precedent for the future.”

In a subsequent minute in the same volume reference is made to Phillip Miller [F.R.S. 1729] as “an ancient Member of this Society” (*postea*, p. 46) It would seem probable that some attempts had been made before October 1743 to organise a Club, but that these had fallen into abeyance.

The first distinct evidence of the formation of an organised company which could develop into a Club is to be found in the document of 27th October 1743 which records the result of a meeting of eight gentlemen on that day. It is written on a page of now much foxed foolscap paper which has been preserved by being carefully pasted into the beginning of the first Minute-book of the Royal Society Club. Its contents are these :

Oct. 27th 1743.

Mr. Postlethwaite	-	6s.	} Paid for a month.
Mr. Birch	-	6s.	
Mr. Colebrooke	-	6s.	
Mr. Dixon	-	6s.	
Mr. Watson	-	6s.	
Capt ⁿ Middleton	-	6s.	
Mr. R. Graham	-	6s.	
Mr. Burrow	-	6s.	

£2 8s. paid to Mr. Colebrooke, Treasurer.

A dinner to be ordered every Thursday for 6 at 1/6 per Head Eating = 9/ certain.

¹ Minute-book No. 1, p. 13. This date would be 1751 new style.

As many more as come, to pay 1/6 per Head, Each.

If fewer than 6 come, the Deficiency to be paid out of this Fund of £2 8/: and y^e Remainder to be divided, at the end of y^e month, amongst the 8 subscribers.

A pint of Wine for every one that dines; Whether the number comes short of six, or exceeds six.

To be added

Mr. Cooksey	-	-	-	6s.
Dr. Lawson	-	-	-	6
Mr. Bell	-	-	-	6

Novr. 24	-	-	-	18
Original Fund	-	-	-	£2 8

£3 6

This memorandum, evidently an original document, drawn up on the date which it bears, and thus the oldest piece of manuscript among the archives of the Club, has no title nor any indication of the object which brought the company together, beyond the mention of "dinner," "eating" and "wine." Not only is there no allusion to any connection of the diners with the Royal Society, but of the eight original number two did not then belong to the Society, and neither of them became F.R.S. until in one case eleven, and in the other twelve, years afterwards. Again, the three names added a month later were not those of Fellows of the Royal Society. One of them was elected into that body six years thereafter, and another eleven years, but the third was never so elected. It is remarkable that neither the President nor any one of the Officers of the Royal Society was included in the list, and that none of the individuals who made their arrangements for a month of weekly dinners were at that time men of outstanding eminence in science or in the ranks of the Society. The Rev. Thomas Birch, afterwards Secretary of the Royal Society, held a succession of clerical livings, and was an antiquary and a writer on historical subjects. In the early days he was often chairman at the dinners. James Burrow, afterwards knighted, was a barrister by profession and a man who became of such consideration in the Royal Society as to be twice chosen by the Council to be temporarily Presi-

dent, when a vacancy in the Chair took place in the interval between two anniversaries.

William Watson rose to high distinction as a physician in London, and was for many years one of the most honoured Fellows of the Royal Society and one of the staunchest supporters of the Club. He was knighted in 1786. Commander Christopher Middleton, naval commander and Arctic voyager, had become F.R.S. in 1737. Josiah Colebrooke, a worthy apothecary in Budge Row, but not yet F.R.S., was chosen Treasurer at the meeting on 27th October 1743—a position which he held in the subsequent development of the Club for the long period of nearly thirty-one years. Of him much will be said in subsequent pages of this volume.

Another record of later date forms a prominent feature at the beginning of the same Minute-book. It is entitled "Subscribers' Names," and contains a chronological list of the members that had been successively added each year, beginning with those of the little group of 27th October 1743. It is in the handwriting of the Treasurer, and must have been transcribed by him from minutes which he kept, but which have now unfortunately disappeared. It is thus the only record now remaining of the earliest elections previous to the year 1749. The handwriting and ink indicate that the earlier part of the list was written out probably about the year 1750, the subsequent elections being entered consecutively year by year from the Minute-book.

From this document the list of the members that constituted the Society or Club of the "Royal Philosophers" during the first six years of its existence, together with the several dates of their election, may be inserted here.

1743.

Oct. 27. James Postlethwaite.
Rev. Thos. Birch.
Wm. Dixon.
Wm. Watson.
Captain Middleton.
Richard Graham.
James Burrow.
Josiah Colebrook, Treas.

Nov. 24. Dr. Lawson.
Rev. John Cooksey.
George Bell.
Feb. 9. Daniel Wray.
Peter Newcome.
George Lewis Scott.
Mr. Pawlet.
23. James Lever.

1744.		Decr. 18. Dr. N. Munckley.	
April	19. Mr. Maud.	Jerem. Dyson.	
June	7. Conway Whithorne.	March	5. Benj. Prideaux.
	Wesby Gill.	1747.	
	14. Dr. Collyer.	April	16. Sir James Creed.
July	5. Dr. Barker.	April	23. Martin Folkes, Presi-
August	23. Sir Joseph Ayloff.	dent.	
1745.		Oct.	22. Charles Stanhope.
Nov.	21. Jonathan Richard-	1748.	
	son.	Jany.	23. Wm. Freeman.
Feby.	13. Rev. Dr. Squire.	James Gibbs.	
	Lord Willoughby of	John Colebrooke.	
	Parham.	Dr. Wm. Battie.	
March	6. Mr. Ellicott.	Dr. Charles Feake.	
1746.		Dr. Mitchel.	
March	27th. Richard Roderick.	Sept.	1. Peter Davall.
	Rev. Edmd. Morris.	George Graham.	
April	10. Benjn. Robins.	8. Dr. Gowin Knight.	

A scrutiny of this list shows that the great majority of the early members were already Fellows of the Royal Society. Of those who were not Fellows, eight were ultimately elected into the Society, and eight do not appear to have been ever so elected. It is a matter of some interest to enquire into the qualifications, scientific, literary or social, of this original nucleus of the Royal Society Club. They included several accomplished antiquaries, such as Daniel Wray (F.R.S. in 1728), who figured among the writers that have been identified with "Junius"; Peter Newcome (F.R.S. 1742), who became prebendary of Llandaff, and in his later years published a history of St. Albans Abbey; Sir Joseph Ayloff, Bart., one of the Keepers of State papers, whose recollections of the early days of the Club have been already referred to; and Martin Folkes, who became President of the Society of Antiquaries in 1750 and was at the time of his election into the Club (1747) President of the Royal Society. Other members were noted mathematicians, such as the barrister George Lewis Scott and Benjamin Robins the military engineer, to whom the Copley Medal was awarded in 1746. Faithful to the traditions of the Royal Society, the Club did not forget to honour the mechanician and inventor George Graham, whose skill and ingenuity

contrived and constructed instruments which enabled Halley and Bradley to make their astronomical observations, and which were fully appreciated by the French Academy.

Then there was a notable band of medical men, including some leaders of their profession. Besides Dr. William Watson, already mentioned, there were Drs. William Battie, Charles Feake, and Gowin Knight. The last-named received in 1747 the high award of the Copley Medal. The Church was represented in the Club by Thomas Birch, already alluded to and by Samuel Squire, who in after years became the Bishop of St. David's. The interests of geography and maritime exploration were doubtless looked after by Captain Middleton, who had seen service in the Hudson Bay region and among the Arctic seas, and in after years in home waters of the Scottish and Flemish coasts.

Members of Parliament were likewise included in the original list of the Club. Baron Willoughby of Parham was for some years one of the most frequently present at the weekly dinners and was often voted into the chair at these gatherings. Charles Stanhope, who had sat in the House of Commons for several constituencies in succession, was another strong supporter of the Club. The Arts were not neglected, for James Gibbs, one of the foremost architects of the day, who has left his record in many public buildings and monuments in London, Oxford, and Cambridge, elected F.R.S. in 1729, became a member of the Dining-Club in 1747. A place was found, too, for a representative of literature in the person of Richard Roderick, Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, an accomplished critic and writer of light verse who in 1750 was honoured with the Fellowship of the Royal Society.

Of the members who, though active supporters of the Club, were never elected into the Royal Society, the most prominent was Jeremiah Dyson. This amiable and versatile man, politician, civil servant, and pamphleteer, had in his youth studied at the University of Edinburgh, where he formed a life-long friendship with Mark Akenside the poet, who was likewise then a student of

medicine there. In later years, when the poet was unsuccessful in his medical practice at Hampstead, where Dyson had bought a house for him, the same benefactor, "with an ardour of friendship that has not many examples," as Dr. Johnson has remarked, secured a small house for his friend in Bloomsbury Square, and allowed him £300 a year, until he did not require other aid. Dyson had the satisfaction of seeing Akenside secure a prominent and lucrative place among the medical practitioners in London, and there can be little doubt that he was the means of procuring the poet's introduction into the Dining Club of the philosophers, of which he continued for some years to be an assiduous member.

To this company the accession of the President of the Royal Society on 23rd April 1747 was an incident of prime importance, for it officially connected them with the great Society to which most of them belonged, and practically recognised them as its Dining Club. Martin Folkes (1690-1754), who filled this high office, was rather antiquarian and literary than scientific in his studies, though he wrote on astronomy and other physical subjects. As far back as 1723 he had been appointed by Sir Isaac Newton one of the Vice-presidents of the Royal Society, and on the retirement of Sir Hans Sloane from the Presidential Chair on 30th November 1741, Folkes was elected as his successor. He held the office for eleven years until he relinquished it from failing health. He was also President of the Society of Antiquaries from 1749 till his death in 1754. Accomplished in many branches of knowledge, mild and courteous; such was the President under whose gentle sway the Club passed rapidly from infancy to virile youth. An admirable portrait of him, painted by Hogarth, hangs on the walls of the Royal Society's apartments, and a monument to his memory was in 1792 erected in Westminster Abbey. At the time of his entry into the Dining-Club he was fifty-seven years of age.

No record of the Club previous to the year 1747 appears to be now extant save the two documents above cited from

the beginning of the first Minute-book. But from 1747 onward the chronicle of the weekly meetings is continuous up to 1855. There is then a gap of some twenty-four years of which no dinner record has survived. The register of the ordinary meetings begins again in November 1879 and is complete up to the present time. The reports of the Annual General Meetings or Anniversaries, on the other hand, have been preserved for every year from 1749 up to the present day. The history of the Club is thus recorded in two series of volumes—the Minute-books and the Dinner-registers.

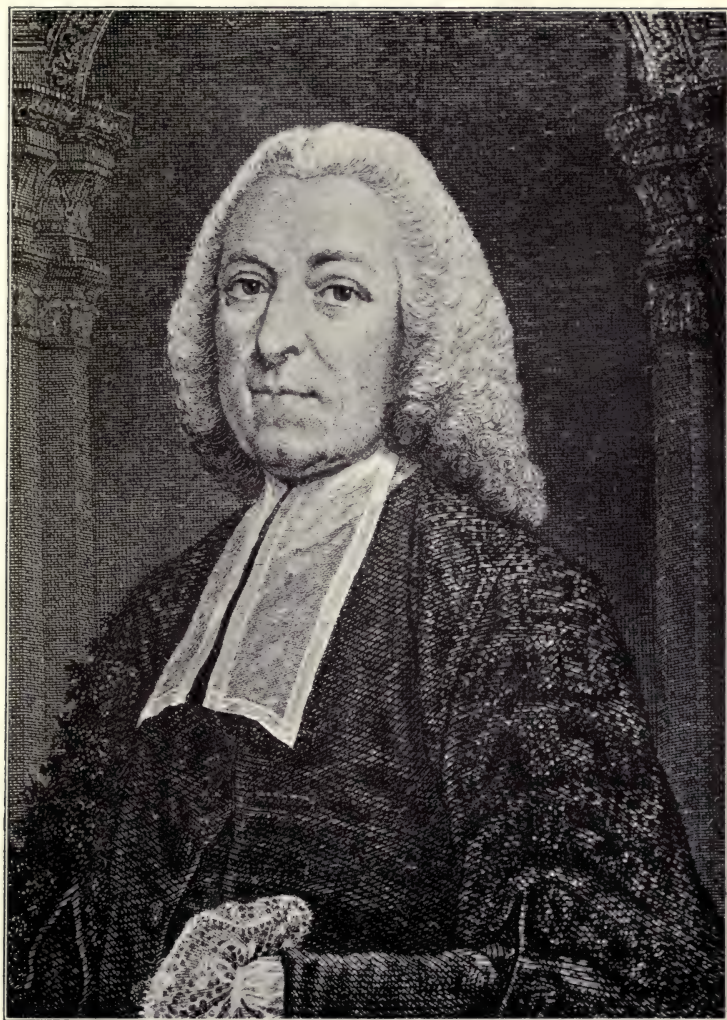
I. *The Minute-books.* These are four volumes in folio and quarto, kept by the successive Treasurers, in which the business transacted at each Annual General Meeting and at every Special Meeting are duly recorded from the beginning up to the present time. The various changes in the rules and arrangements adopted at different times are there narrated, together with the name and date of election of every member of the Club down to the present day.

II. *The Dinner-registers.* Those for the period from March 24th 1747 (old style) up to July 24th 1788 consist of eight small octavo volumes full bound in crimson leather with gilt edges, gilt tooling on the back and sides, and closed with brass clasps. The style of these dainty books, which is hardly what would have been looked for in the chronicle of a Dining Club, was doubtless set by the taste of the antiquarian, Josiah Colebrooke, the first Treasurer. The first and slightly smallest volume of the series is more especially remarkable as a specimen of the bookbinder's art. It is not only elaborately gilt on the back and sides, but on the centre of each side the leather bears a diamond-shaped device of elaborately interlaced work with winged boys blowing trumpets and two wreathed and winged heads flanking a central space which bears the Christian symbol J.H.S. This volume may be conjectured to have been originally intended for notes, possibly of a religious or ecclesiastical nature. The rest of the series, though plainer in decoration, have continued the binding in full crimson

leather and gilding. The Dinner-registers were afterwards kept in a series of much more homely pass-books, which record the names of the members and guests, sometimes with notes of the more important regulations adopted at the Anniversary or other meetings. They extend without a break up to June 21st 1855. From that date onward several volumes of these weekly registers have been lost. Every effort to recover them has as yet proved fruitless. The gap in time represented by the missing volumes extends from June 1855 to November 1879. After the latter date the dinner chronicle is continuous to the present time.

Up to the end of December 1785 the Dinner-registers record not only the names of the members and guests present at each dinner, but also the several dishes that were set before them, thus supplying an interesting picture of the culinary art in England for nearly fifty years of the eighteenth century.

At first the group of men who agreed to dine together in the autumn of 1743 assumed no name or title for their company. They could not call themselves a Club of the Royal Society, for some of them did not belong to that body. But when they were joined by the President of the Royal Society, who was by acclamation made their President, they chose as their designation that of "*The Royal Philosophers.*" Their Treasurers for nearly fifty years, in the documents which have come down to us, seldom speak of the company as a Club, but as "*the Society*"; though now and then, as if by a slip of the pen, they do refer to it as "*this Club.*" The record of the first general meeting which has been preserved begins thus:—"At a General Meeting of the Royal Philosophers." The full title would appear to have been "*The Society of Royal Philosophers.*" This appellation, however, would have been too long for common use, at least among the landlords and waiters at the tavern where the dinners were held; it was accordingly shortened there into simply "*The Royals.*" It is noteworthy that in his minute of the Annual General Meeting of the year



SIR JAMES BURROW, F.R.S., 1737.

1774, which was the last he wrote, Josiah Colebrooke continues to speak of "the Society"; but at the very end he is betrayed into the use of the word "Club" where he has to allude to "Binding the first volume of the Memoirs of this Club, when a Preface is wrote." But obviously the Royal Philosophers were now being called a club, and the word appears in the handwriting of the Treasurers from 1787 onward. The title of "Royal Society Club" is first met with in the Account-book of 1794-5, in which an enumeration of the membership is thus designated—"List of the Members of the Royal Society Club subsequent to Annual Meeting on the 2d July 1795." The title is continued in subsequent Account-books.

I purpose in the following Chapters to present a succinct account of the proceedings of the Club during each year from its foundation onwards. The business transacted at the Annual General Meeting, when new regulations were made and new members were elected, will naturally come first in the account of each year. As this meeting has always been held in the summer, its purview extends over the first half of the current year and the second half of the previous year. There can be no doubt that much of the interest in this history lies in the record of the guests who have been entertained at the dinners. I have selected in each year a few of the more conspicuous or representative visitors, and given a brief biographical notice of them, thus connecting the Royal Society Club with the social, political, and scientific life of the time

In perusing the records of the Royal Society and of the Dining-Club connected with it throughout the course of the eighteenth century, one is apt to lose sight of the fact that during that period Great Britain was almost constantly at war in some part or other of the Old world or the New.

Hardly ever in these records do we meet with an allusion to the stirring events that marked the rapid rise of the British Empire beyond the seas. The social intercourse of the scientific men of the day is chronicled week after

week and year after year, as if they were living in a time of profoundest peace. We may be sure, however, that at the Club dinners the exciting events of the time were often the subject of the conversation. Some of the members of the Club and many of their guests had been actors in the great world-wide drama. A number of them had shared in the suppression of the Jacobite up-risings of 1715 and 1745. At least one of them had seen the final collapse of the rebellion on the field of Culloden. Others had played a notable part in the struggles of the American colonies against Indians on the one side and Spanish and French rivals on the other. There were naval and military men who had been in the continental wars and could tell unpublished details of battles in which the English navy and army had been engaged. At intervals too there came times of peace when men of science from this country could revisit France and renew their intimacy with the philosophers there, or when these philosophers crossed the Channel and received in this country the cordial welcome which no international disunion could chill. And after such short interludes of peace there would again come times of war, when the men who had met in friendly concourse at the meetings and dinners of the Royal Society were once more separated into hostile camps, and the same navigator who had been discussing here plans for the discovery of the North-west Passage might be embarked in the French fleet under De Grasse, while our naval men who had enjoyed his society might be ranged in the opposing navy under Rodney or Hood. In the latter half of the century, the revolt of the American colonies and the long series of consultations and conferences which preceded it must have been a frequent subject of anxious discussion, for at least one of the foremost delegates of the colonies at the conferences in London was an honoured Fellow of the Royal Society and a frequent guest at the Dining Club. And lastly there came the convulsion of the French Revolution and the long wars which ensued until a reign of peace was reached in 1815. That the meetings of the Royal Society should have been regularly

held all through these strenuous years is a strong testimony to the devotion with which English men of science could continue their researches (*vitai lampada tradunt*) ; and that the social gatherings of the Club should likewise have been carried on with similar persistence proves, not that the Royal Philosophers were wanting in patriotic concern, but that in their broad view of life they could turn their meal-times into seasons of unconstrained relaxation and enjoyment with their associates, and avail themselves of such opportunities for showing cordiality to others outside, and especially to the foreigners who from time to time visited this country.

CHAPTER II

PRESIDENTSHIP OF MARTIN FOLKES, 1747-1752

ON entering upon the detailed history of the Club we discover that no record has survived of the meetings and dinners which were held during the four years that followed the meeting on October 27th 1743. That these dinners took place, however, is shown by the first entry in the first weekly register, which states that on March 24th 1747 (O.S.) there was in the Treasurer's hands a balance of £5 15s. 5d. On that day the earliest recorded dinner was held, and thenceforward the chronicle was kept week by week with scrupulous fidelity by the same Treasurer during the long space of nearly thirty-one years. Here at the outset let me say that to the memory of this first Treasurer, Josiah Colebrooke, the Royal Society Club owes a debt of cordial appreciation for the unflagging zeal and tact with which he piloted the Club through the dangers of its infancy, until he saw it firmly established in the mature vigour which has enabled it to maintain itself in healthy activity through fully a century and a half since he passed away. We cannot begin the review of our past history more appropriately than by devoting a few pages to the memory of one to whom the Club is so much indebted.

For some twelve years Colebrooke conducted the business of the Club before he himself belonged to the Royal Society. It was not until 13th March 1755 that he was elected a Fellow. His certificate of qualifications, preserved among the archives of the Society, records the opinion of his

claims entertained by his colleagues in the Club who had enjoyed the best opportunity of judging them. It is worthy to be quoted here. It bears that "Mr. Josiah Colebrooke of Budge Row, Apothecary, a gentleman of great merit and curiosity, well versed in several parts of Natural History and other branches of useful knowledge, being desirous of offering himself a Candidate for election into the Royal Society, is recommended by us from our personal knowledge of him, as meriting the honour he desires." The first of the signatures is that of the North American merchant, antiquary, and naturalist, Peter Collinson, the helpful friend and correspondent of Benjamin Franklin. Then follow the signatures of the Earl of Macclesfield, at that time President of the Royal Society, to whom was mainly due the change effected in 1752 from the Old Style to the New in the computation of the year;¹ Anthony, fourth Earl of Shaftesbury, who had been elected into the Royal Society in the previous year; Lord Willoughby of Parham already referred to; John Ward, Professor of Rhetoric at Gresham College; the Rev. Thomas Birch, D.D., who had now been elected Secretary to the Royal Society; William Watson, M.D., and other Fellows. Colebrooke was more especially antiquarian in his studies. He formed one of the original members of the Society of Antiquaries and at the time of his death was Treasurer to that Society. He wrote papers on antiquarian subjects, and contributed to the *Philosophical Transactions* an account of some interesting experiments conducted by himself to elucidate the art of Encaustic Painting in use among the Ancients.

It is impossible to peruse the register of the weekly dinners and the minutes of the General and Special Meetings, so long and so continuously kept by him in his own handwriting, without obtaining a more or less definite impression of the Treasurer's personality. He seems to have enjoyed good health up to the close of his life, if we may judge from his assiduous attendance, and from the bold, firm

¹ It must be borne in mind that the records of the Club previous to 1752 follow the old style, which made the legal year begin on March 25.

calligraphy which he kept up from beginning to end of his long tenure of office. He was evidently of a strongly conservative disposition, maintaining up to the last the characteristic habits with which he began. In his large round, lawyer-like and clearly legible handwriting every letter was leisurely formed when he transcribed his rough notes of the previous evening into one of his sumptuous gilt-edged crimson-leather volumes. Every member and every visitor present at each dinner, together with every dish that was placed before them are carefully, one might almost say lovingly, recorded. He was an accomplished deipnosophist, but manifestly also a thorough Englishman, with a rooted conviction that for him and his fellow-countrymen strong meat was indispensable. He provided that at every dinner the diet should mainly consist of solid joints, roasted or boiled. Soups, made-dishes, vegetable courses, and anything savouring of French cookery were for many years rigidly excluded. It might be all very well for Dr. Halley and his friends to dine on the "fish and pudding" which Ayloffe tells us sufficed for their fare, but Josiah Colebrooke took care that the philosophers under his charge should sit down to repasts worthy of men with robust appetites, such as he no doubt himself possessed. His bill of fare generally began with two kinds of fish, followed by several joints, such as a boiled leg of pork, roast beef, leg of mutton, roast turkey and boiled fowls, with a pudding of some kind and an apple pie or other tart, and butter and cheese to conclude the repast. So much was he attached to plum-pudding that hardly ever was there a dinner without one or sometimes two or even three of these satisfying efforts of the English cook. Out of the 52 weekly dinners in the year there were in general more than forty at which this national dish appeared on the board.

It is astonishing to find that week after week and year after year Colebrooke was seldom absent from his post. Punctually as the day came round he was there, chatting with the members, making acquaintance with the visitors, and quietly jotting down the name of everyone who

attended. He was likewise careful himself to invite suitable guests to the Club. It will be recounted in later pages how he was often the means of introducing some distinguished stranger from abroad or some rising philosopher who had not yet been elected into the Royal Society. On occasions when he could not attend, he would depute one of the members to take the required particulars for his register, and his request usually appears to have been attended to, for the narrative of the dinner is given in his own handwriting, with the omission of his name from the list of those present. When, as sometimes happened, the record was not taken or was lost, he noted the fact on the page where the missing information should have come, leaving it otherwise blank in case the information should be recovered, or, if not, as a memorial of the delinquency.

As a further indication of his conservative tendencies, it may be mentioned that the worthy Treasurer had certain views as to the spelling of English words which he maintained with unbroken persistence throughout his life. If there were two ways of writing a word he preferred the more ancient and now obsolete form. Orthography of course had not then become so fixed as it is now. Lord Chesterfield, indeed, who was a contemporary of Colebrooke, writing to his son on 19th November 1750, was somewhat in advance of his time when he laid much stress on correct spelling. "Orthography," he said, "in the true sense of the word, is so absolutely necessary for a man of letters, or a gentleman, that one false spelling may fix a ridicule upon him for the rest of his life, and I know a man of quality, who never recovered the ridicule of having spelled *wholesome* without the *w*." "Reading with care will secure everybody from false spelling, for books are always well spelled, according to the orthography of the times. Some words are indeed doubtful, being spelled differently by different authors of equal authority; but these are few."¹ Josiah Colebrooke would probably have contested this assertion. It was from no slip of the pen, but from deliberate choice that he

¹ Chesterfield's Letters, Lord Mahon's Edition (1845), ii. 64.

observed certain spellings which would assuredly have drawn down on him the witty earl's "ridicule." But he generally remained faithful to the orthography which he had adopted. Like some of his more prominent literary contemporaries he always spelled *plum* (the fruit) with a *b* at the end of the word. Thus he persistently wrote *plumb-pudding*, and this dish, of which he and his associates appear to have been so appreciative, carries its superfluous *b* triumphantly through his Dinner-registers from beginning to end over a period of thirty years.

Colebrooke had likewise a fondness for double consonants where a single one is now thought enough, and this partiality occurs so frequently in final syllables as to suggest that he was in the habit of pronouncing these syllables with some emphasis. Thus he writes *turbutt*, *mackerell*, *holly-butt*, *rabitts*, *fillett*, etc.¹ He retained the archaic fondness for the vowel *y*. He always wrote *pye* rather than *pie*, and when a word ended in *y* and he had to put it in the plural, he liked to retain the *y* and put an *s* after it. Again and again, when he had to record a small attendance at a Club dinner which necessitated a demand on the general Fund, he noted the number of *deficiencys*. He does not seem to have been familiar with the French language, and the names of foreign visitors were apt to be written by him as they seemed to him to sound, so that it is not always easy to make out what the names really were. Towards the end of his reign also, French cookery, no doubt much against his will, was creeping apace into the dinners under his charge, and as if in revenge for their appearance he gives to the foreign names a strange English garb. Thus "petty pattys" is doubtless his phonetic rendering of "petits pâtés" ² Even with English personal names it took him

¹ Some other of the Treasurer's spellings are worth preservation: Scotchd callops [Scots collops?], Collyflower, Salmon and Soals, Rasberrys, Boyled fowles, Pidgeon-pye, Fowles and oyesters, minced pyes, Sweet breads and Pallats, Sallad, Skate and Place, Dutch Plaise, ballance.

² In the *Annual Register* for 1758 (p. 373) there appeared a "Remonstrance of the Mob of Great Britain against the importation of French words." One cannot help conjecturing that Josiah Colebrooke sympathised



SIR WILLIAM WATSON, M.D., F.R.S., 1741.

some time to master the spelling which their owners used and preferred. Thus when the astronomer Maskelyne first appeared as a visitor at the Club, the Treasurer, unfamiliar with the name, of which he could only catch the sound as pronounced, wrote it down in his register as "Mr. Masculine." This spelling he varied on subsequent occasions into "Mascarline," "Mascaline," &c., and not until the distinguished physicist became, as Astronomer Royal, an *ex officio* member of the Club, was his name generally written correctly, though still with occasional lapses.

As long as the Royal Society held its meetings at Gresham College the social dinners and suppers of the Fellows took place in some of the taverns in the City within easy reach of that centre. When in November 1710 the Society moved to Crane Court, Fleet Street, it was more convenient to dine or sup in quarters nearer to the new meeting-place. The place chosen by those Fellows who laid the foundation of the Royal Society Club was "The Mitre Tavern, in Fleet Street over against Fetter Lane"—one of the most noted resorts in London, especially famous as the favourite supper-house of Johnson and his associates.¹ In this house the Royal Philosophers continued to dine from their first gatherings for nearly forty years until 21st December 1780. Their dinner hour, which had once been at what is now the time for luncheon, had been slowly made later. Previous to 1784 it was fixed for 4 p.m. In that year it became 4.30, which was successively altered to 5, 5.30, 6 and 6.30, as in later pages will be shown from the minutes of the Club.

with the movement. Certainly he succeeded in keeping both the cookery of the Club and its language fairly free from French contamination until towards the end of his long reign.

¹ Pepys mentions four Mitre taverns in London: "The Mitre," Cheap-side, "The Mitre," Fenchurch Street, "The Mitre," Fleet Street, and "The Mitre," Wood Street. It was the Fleet Street house that Johnson and Boswell have made famous. Possibly to some of the more literary among the Royal Philosophers or their guests when they went to the Mitre, Matthew Prior's distich might now and then occur:

Thus to the place where Johnson sat we climb,
Leaning on the same rail that guided him.

1747. In the records of the first ten dinners, from March 24, 1747 (O.S.) to May 26, 1748, no distinction is made between subscribers and visitors, and no one is specially named as chairman, though, as the name of Lord Willoughby is usually placed at the top of the list of the company, it may be inferred that he generally presided. The following list is that of the first dinner of which the record has been preserved :

March 24, 1747.

Lord Willoughby.

Mr. Cambridge.

Mr. Burrow.

Dr. Munckley.

Mr. Davall.

Mr. Lever.

Mr. Ellicott.

Mr. Birch.

Mr. Nixon.

Mr. Edwards.

Mr. Charleton.

Mr. Gibbs.

Mr. Postlethwaite.

Mr. Freeman.

Mr. Wray.

Mr. Roderick.

Mr. Newcombe.

Mr. Colebrooke.

Dinner.

2 dishes fresh Salmon, Lobster
sauce.

Cod's Head.

Pidgeon Pye.

Calves Head.

Bacon and Greens.

Fillett of Veal.

Chine of Pork.

Plumb Pudding.

Apple Custard.

Butter and Cheese.

No Demand.¹

On May 19th the second Duke of Richmond heads the list, followed by Martin Folkes, the President of the Royal Society. A fortnight later, when Folkes is again one of the diners, his name stands at the top, with President appended to it. And he continues to fill the chair every time that he is present. A beginning was then made to distinguish visitors from subscribers in the register. The dinners were evidently becoming increasingly attractive, for the number of visitors rapidly rose. Thus on 11th August in the same year, out of 22 who dined the half were not subscribers, and

¹ This note, frequently appended by the Treasurer to the dinner-list, signifies that the number of diners was such as to obviate any call upon the Fund of the Club.

next week the outside element numbered 18 and the subscribers only 8. It is amusing to see how the careful Treasurer took measures to prevent, as far as he could, this inroad of outsiders from depleting the Fund of the Club. A practice was arising among the members to present venison or other viands to the Company, and when this was done the health of the donor was toasted, while at the same time the Treasurer was empowered to pay the gamekeeper's fee, cost of carriage, and other incidental expenses out of Club funds.

1748. On 4th August 1748 the following resolution was adopted: "The Company having this day been entertained with venison by the Hon. Mr. Yorke, it was agreed *nem. con.* that his health should be drank in claret, and thanks to him for his present, and four bottles were ordered in accordingly. But as there were many gentlemen present who were not Subscribers it was thought proper to collect the whole reckoning, including the keeper's fee of 10/6 and 3/- for carriage, from the company present and not to charge this over-reckoning on the Fund." The Treasurer records on each occasion that the claret ordered was paid for there and then by the company present, so as not to appear in his books as an expenditure from the Club's resources.

It appears from various allusions in the chronicle that at this time and for long afterwards each visitor paid for his own dinner. He was invited by the President or one of the other members, and during the first few years in the register an indication was inserted in the dinner-register opposite his name that he was a visitor, but without any indication by whom his invitation had been given. As will be seen in the records of later years, it was found desirable to keep a note in the register at whose instance any visitor came to the Club.

It can be readily understood that unless special precautions were taken, some difficulty might be found in preventing the ordinary frequenters of a tavern from sometimes straying into the room of the Royal Philosophers, where

they were always sure of a good dinner and might hear interesting conversation. The intrusion became so serious that the members drew up the following order :¹

“ We whose names are underwritten, members of this Club think it proper that the undermentioned notice be fixed up in the Club-room : viz

It is thought proper to inform all gentlemen who dine here that according to the original Establishment all gentlemen who are not subscribers themselves, must be introduced by a subscriber present each time they dine here.”

[Signed in the Dinner-register by the PRESIDENT and twenty-one subscribers.]

A month later it was found necessary to define more precisely the limit of number of members in the Club, the time and manner of voting, and the penalty to be exacted for non-attendance. The following resolution was then drawn up and agreed to :

“ Resolved that the number of Subscribers to this Club shall not exceed forty for the future ; that the Election of Members to supply any Vacancy that shall happen by Death or otherwise, be made annually on the last Thursday in July by Ballott by the Members then present ; and that no Person be deemed chosen who hath five Negatives ; that those Gentlemen who have not attended for 12 months, nor sent an Excuse, be deemed no longer members, and that their places be filled up out of those gentlemen that are Candidates, whose names are to be put to ballott according to their precedence on the list which is ordered to be kept for that purpose.”

[Signed in the Dinner-register by the President and twenty-eight subscribers.]

Even after all these precautions there would seem to have been still some difficulty in rigidly excluding strangers, for next year (March 1st 1749) a Special Meeting was called to consider the procedure that should be adopted. It was then resolved, “ That no Strangers be admitted to dine here for the future except those Gentlemen introduced by the President, and that this order be written and fixed up at the door.”

We may now glance over the list of visitors during the first year of which the record is complete. At the second

¹ *Dinner-register*, 25th August 1748.

dinner, held on 31st March 1748, the name of "Mr. John Wilkes" occurs. There is no evidence to show who he was. But we know that the famous politician of that name was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society on April 13th in the following year, and it appears not unlikely that some of his friends among the Royal Philosophers anticipated his election by inviting him to their board. Among the other guests who dined with the Club in the summer and autumn of this year the name of Mr. Hill occurs some half-dozen times, sometimes placed next to that of the President in the list of the company. This was the notorious "Sir John" Hill, M.D., who was then being befriended by Martin Folkes and Henry Baker, the founder of the Bakerian Lecture of the Royal Society. It was probably to the President's kindness that he owed his first introduction into the Society of the Royal Philosophers. Clever, ambitious, and unscrupulous, he counted on being elected into the Royal Society by the influence of his two powerful patrons, but when the honour was not forthcoming he employed his facile pen in writing a quarto volume of some 265 pages in which, under cover of criticising papers published in the Society's *Philosophical Transactions*, he gave vent to his ill-humour in most offensive terms, directing his abuse in unmeasured and contemptuous language against the Society in general and Martin Folkes and Henry Baker in particular. The volume seems to have been written with energetic rapidity when he realised that his hope was not to be fulfilled, for it was published in 1751, only three years after he had been the guest of the Club. He was in his youth an apothecary in London. Having some acquaintance with botany he was employed by the Duke of Richmond in the arrangement of his gardens and collection of dried plants. He went on the Stage for a time with no success, and returned to his business of apothecary. In 1746 he published an English translation of Theophrastus' treatise "Concerning Stones," and then embarked on the career of a prolific author on all manner of subjects. His most ambitious and costly work on "The Vegetable System," in twenty-six

folio volumes, was begun in 1759 and completed in 1775. He presented a copy of it to the King of Sweden, who acknowledged it by conferring on him the Order of Vasa. Thereafter he called himself "Sir John Hill," and purchasing the degree of M.D. from the University of St. Andrews, posed as a medical man. Among his multifarious undertakings he wrote stage-plays which no manager would accept, and he avenged himself by publishing acrimonious pamphlets against these officials. Garrick, who came in for his share of the vituperation, replied in the famous epigram :

For physic and farces, his equal there scarce is ;
His farces are physic, his physic a farce is.

In the preface to his attack on the Royal Society he declared that he had "the honour *not* to be a Member of the Royal Society of London." The Society took care that he should retain that negative distinction.¹

The Duke of Richmond, the second holder of the title, who, as already mentioned, was a guest of the Club on 19th May, no doubt came there by invitation of the President. When staying with the Duke at Goodwood in the previous year, Folkes wrote of him that he loved "all sorts of natural knowledge," and was "the most humane and best man living"—a character borne out by the testimony of other writers of the day. He had seen some service in the army, was present at the Battle of Dettingen, and took part at Carlisle in the expedition against the Jacobite rebels of 1745.

The most notable English man of science whose name appears among the guests this year was James Bradley, D.D. (1693-1762), who so early showed his astronomical powers as to be elected into the Royal Society at the age of five and twenty. Although he entered the Church and had received several ecclesiastical appointments, he resigned these when he accepted the Savilian professorship of astronomy at Oxford in 1721. He became Astronomer

¹ The *Annual Register* for 1775 contains "A short Account of the Life, Writings and Genius of the late Sir John Hill," which makes out the best it can for his record.

Royal in 1742. The Copley Medal of the Royal Society was awarded to him in 1748 for his discovery of the nutation of the earth's axis. Not living in London he never became a member of the Club, but he often dined there as a guest.

Lord Baltimore, who came to the Club on 30th June, was an interesting guest, inasmuch as he had himself personally governed for a year (1732-3) his Colony of Maryland. He was an Elder Brother of the Trinity House and Surveyor General of the Duchy of Cornwall at the time of his death. Another of the visitors at the same dinner was likewise connected with the western colonies—Sir William Young, first baronet, who was Governor of Dominica.

Welbore Ellis, who also appears in the list of guests, was frequently welcomed to the table of the Club in subsequent years. Educated at Westminster School and Christ Church, Oxford, he had seven years before this date entered the House of Commons as Member for Cricklade. He took an active part in parliamentary politics, was created Baron Mendip in 1794, and died in 1802 in his 89th year.

Among the visitors in the month of December the name of "Mr. Hogarth" occurs twice. There is no indication of who he was. But it is allowable to believe that this was the great artist who was then rising rapidly to the full height of his reputation as a painter and satirist of the highest order. He painted the admirable portrait of Martin Folkes, already referred to, and he may have come on the special invitation of the President.

It has always been the practice of the Royal Society Club to entertain strangers of distinction from abroad who visit London, especially those who have any scientific reputation. Among the foreigners invited to the Club-dinners in 1748 two or three of note can be recognised. Jean Jallabert, appointed to a Chair of experimental physics specially created for him in 1737 at Geneva, had travelled extensively over western Europe, including England, where

in 1740 he had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. More remarkable and more frequently to be seen at the table of the Club was Juan y Santacilla, more commonly known as Don Jorge Juan, a Spanish mathematician born in 1712. His energetic nature led him at the age of scarcely 23 to take command of a small vessel with a single sail in which he crossed the Atlantic Ocean and examined a long extent of the American Coast-line. He was one of a commission (which included La Condamine) sent in 1736 to measure terrestrial degrees in equatorial America, during which operation he determined the heights of the ground barometrically. He remained some months in London in 1748-49, often dining with the Club, and being on 9th November of the latter year elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Another visitor, Johann Nicholas Sebastian Allamand, Professor of philosophy and natural history at Franeker in the Netherlands, had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1746. The Cavaliere Ossorio, who dined with the Club on 16th February of this year, had been made F.R.S. in the preceding April, and Nicholas de Montaudouin, who was a guest at the Club on 20th and 27th October 1748, was chosen into the Royal Society in the following spring.

1749. It has been remarked in the previous chapter that in the Minute-books and Dinner-registers allusions to contemporary events, either at home or abroad, are almost entirely absent. The Club records of 1745 and 1746 if they had been preserved, would probably not have contained any reference to the Jacobite rebellion and invasion of England, to its sanguinary suppression, or to the trials of the unfortunate leaders at Carlisle and in London. In 1749 at the meeting of the Club on 27th April it is recorded, "This being the day the fireworks for the Peace of Aix la Chapelle were played off, only three members attended."¹ The three heroes who preferred their duty to the Club were the two divines, Mr. Birch and Mr. Squire, and the never-failing Josiah Colebrooke. The latter, perhaps foreseeing that

¹ *Dinner Register* No. 1.



MARTIN FOLKES

President of the Royal Society, 1741-1752.

the company would be small, reduced the bill of fare to unwontedly diminished proportions. His menu runs :

Fresh Salmon and Soal.
SirLoin of Beef, roast and pickles.
Asparagus.

and the smallness of the number of those who partook of this repast involved an additional entry, always unwelcome to the careful Treasurer :—" Paid out of the Fund 13/6." The members who went to see the fireworks had the satisfaction of witnessing a gorgeous display of the pyrotechnic art. An engraving of the architectural façade of scaffolding which was prepared for it forms the frontispiece of the *London Magazine* for the year, with the further information that the Sun erected on a pole that springs from the crest of the Royal Arms " is 32 feet in diameter and will burn some hours."

The first General Meeting of which the record has been preserved took place in the sixth year of the existence of the fraternity and is thus entered in the Minute-book :

At a General Meeting of the ROYAL PHILOSOPHERS, Thursday
July 27, 1749

Present, Martin Folkes Esq. President.

Mr. Geo. Graham.	Peter Daval Esq.
Mr. Ellicott.	Dr. Knight.
Benjamin Robins Esq.	The Rev. Dr. Squire.
Mr. Peter Newcome.	Daniel Wray Esq.
Dr. Charles Feake.	James Burrow Esq.
Mr. Wm. Watson.	The Rev. Mr. Birch.

J. Colebrooke, Treasurer.

Mr. Professor Coulson, Dr. Moss, Paul Whichcot Esq. visitors.¹

The Treasurer reported that he had received £7 17s. 5d., that he had paid out £1 11s., and that there remained in his hands a balance of £6 6s. 5d. He further announced that three members had died in the course of the year, Dr. Barker, Richard Graham and James Lever, and that

¹ For the first few years visitors were allowed to be present at the Anniversary Meeting, which was held in June or July ; but the inconvenience of the practice led to its abandonment.

those who had not attended for 12 months and had therefore forfeited their membership¹ were five in number, viz. Messrs. Pawlet, Sir Joseph Ayloffe, Mr. Maud, Dr. Collyer and the Rev. Edmond Morris. The two last-named were not Fellows of the Royal Society. Six new members were elected, viz. William Fauquier (F.R.S. 1746), William Tempest (F.R.S. 1712), William Heberden, M.D. (F.R.S. 1749), Joshua Iremonger (F.R.S. 1747), John Clephane, M.D. (F.R.S. 1746), and William Hall. Of these new members the most notable in his day was the physician William Heberden. He attained high distinction in his profession, and proved to be one of the most genial and influential members of the Club. He is likewise memorable for his generous and sympathetic treatment of his patients, so pleasantly portrayed by the poet Cowper :

Virtuous and faithful Heberden ! whose skill
Attempts no task it cannot well fulfill,
Gives melancholy up to Nature's care,
And sends the patient into purer air.²

The name of William Hall, the last of the group of newly elected members, does not occur in the Royal Society's List of Fellows, and there is no evidence that he ever was elected into the Society. He had repeatedly dined as a visitor at the Club and was probably a favourite among its members

The visitors who dined with the Club during 1749 included some names of interest. There was a distinguished company at the Mitre on 6th April of this year when the President was supported in the chair by sixteen members and twelve visitors. Earl Stanhope, the second bearer of the title, who was present, was known as a mathematician, and had been elected into the Royal Society in 1735. He manifested

¹ It will be seen in the records of later years that the enforcement of the regulation for the exclusion of absentee members came to be much more laxly observed. But the Club began well.

² In his poem of *Retirement*. "When Samuel Johnson, in his last illness, was asked what physician he had sent for, 'Dr. Heberden,' replied he, '*ultimus Romanorum*, the last of the learned physicians.'" Seward, quoted by Birkbeck Hill in his *Boswell's Life of Johnson*, vol. vi. p. 399.

a generous concern for scientific progress, as was shown by the liberality with which he bore the expense of the posthumous publication of Robert Simson's papers, and by his will wherein he bequeathed a sum of £500 to the Royal Society. Don Jorge Juan was also at this dinner, likewise the Hon. Philip Yorke who continues to appear from time to time in the Registers as the donor of venison. The Swedish naturalist Gustav Brander was likewise of the company. He had settled in London for commercial pursuits, but at the same time cultivated natural history, devoting himself more especially to the collection of Tertiary and Secondary fossils, which were described by Solander and presented to the Royal Society's collection now in the British Museum. He was made F.R.S. in 1754.

Later in the year the Club entertained some visitors destined to be among its most valuable and honoured members. Conspicuous among them was Dr. John Pringle, who in the course of three years was elected a member, and ultimately became President of the Royal Society. Another man of note who for many years enjoyed the weekly meetings, first as a guest and subsequently as a member, was Mark Akenside, the poet and physician, who dined for the first time with the Philosophers on 20th July.

One of the most attractive personalities that appeared at the Club the same year, but never became a member, was General Oglethorpe, the well-known friend of Samuel Johnson and his circle. This charming veteran had passed a singularly varied life, and he possessed the happy gift of being able to describe his experiences with graphic vivacity. At the age of fourteen he obtained a commission in the army and saw some service on the continent in his youthful years. He had matriculated at Corpus Christi College, Oxford; when six and twenty he entered parliament as member for Haslemere and retained the seat for thirty-two years. He carried on many philanthropic efforts in this country, and threw himself with ardour into the foundation and development of the Colony of Georgia, where he had many thrilling encounters with the Spaniards. His career made so

romantic a story that Johnson might well press the old soldier to write his autobiography, and might affirm that if he had the materials he would be glad to write the life himself. Pope has immortalised his philanthropy in the lines :

One driven by strong benevolence of soul
Shall fly, like Oglethorpe, from pole to pole.¹

And Boswell has preserved for us a sample of the anecdotes with which he could amuse and delight a dinner table. "The General told us that when he was a very young man, I think only fifteen, serving under Prince Eugene of Savoy, he was sitting in a company at table with a Prince of Wirtemberg. The Prince took up a glass of wine and, by a fillip, made some of it fly in Oglethorpe's face. Here was a nice dilemma. To have challenged him instantly, might have fixed a quarrelsome character upon the young soldier: to have taken no notice of it might have been considered as cowardice. Oglethorpe, therefore, fixing his eye upon the Prince, and smiling all the time, as if he took what his Highness had done in jest, said '*Mon Prince*,'—(I forget the French words he used, the purport however was,) 'That's a good joke; but we do it much better in England,' and threw a whole glass of wine in the Prince's face. An old General who sat by, said '*Il a bien fait, Mon Prince, vous l'avez commencé*,' and thus all ended in good humour."²

Another of the guests in the same year, Admiral Isaac Townsend, had a few weeks before he dined with the Club been elected into the Royal Society. He had seen varied service in the Navy for more than half a century, both in European and American waters. The year before he was invited to dine he had been promoted to be Admiral of the Blue. In 1754 he was appointed Governor of Greenwich Hospital, and he held the post as long as he lived. On the death of Lord Anson in 1762 he became senior admiral on the list.

¹ *Imitations of Horace*, II. 2. 276.

² *Boswell's Life of Johnson* (Birkbeck Hill's Edit.), vol. ii. p. 180. General Oglethorpe was elected into the Royal Society on 9th November 1749.

St. Andrew's Day, 30th November, happened this year on a Thursday. The Royal Philosophers accordingly held no dinner of their own that day, but left the members of their fraternity free to attend the anniversary dinner of the Royal Society, which, as usual, took place at Pontac's famous hostelry. This custom of pretermittting the Club's dinner when the anniversary of the Royal Society happens on a Thursday has been continued ever since and is faithfully observed still.

1750. The Annual General Meeting in 1750 was held on July 26th, when there were present :

Martin Folkes, President.

Rev. Thomas Birch.	Dr. William Heberden.
George Graham.	Peter Davall.
Jonathan Richardson.	William Watson.
Daniel Wray.	Peter Newcome.
William Fauquier.	William Hall.
James Burrow.	John Ellicott.
Dr. Gowin Knight.	George Bell.
Charles Stanhope.	James Postlethwaite.

Josiah Colebrooke, Treasurer.

The Treasurer made his financial statement, which showed that his disbursements had amounted to only fourteen shillings, leaving in his hands a balance of £7 14s. 5d. From his weekly register it appears that 933 persons had dined at the Club during the year, consisting of 738 members and 195 visitors.¹ The list of the members was read, and there being only one vacancy but seven candidates, it was agreed to have no election until next year.

¹ Josiah Colebrooke and his immediate successors, though they furnished at each Annual General Meeting an account of their receipts and expenditure, did not include also a statement of the number of persons who had dined at the Club during the year, and of the relative number of members and guests. This information can with some little trouble be obtained by a careful scrutiny of the dinner-registers. I have compiled it for every fifth year beginning with 1750. As the list of those present at these anniversary Meetings varies but little from year to year, to save space it is inserted only every fifth year. The gradual change in the membership of the Club will thus be more distinctly perceptible. It will be observed that the Club dined as a rule every Thursday throughout the year, and continued to do so during the rest of the century.

At a special meeting on May 3rd, the President in the chair and fourteen members present, it was resolved :

“ That any Nobleman or Gentleman complimenting this company annually with venison, not less than a Haunch, shall during the continuance of such annuity be deemed an Honorary Member and admitted as often as he comes, without paying the fine which those members do who are elected by Ballott.”¹

This resolution remained in force for nearly thirty years until it was formally rescinded in 1779. While it was in operation the following donors of game were entered on the books as Honorary Members :

August 4th, 1748.	The Hon. Philip Yorke (afterwards Viscount Royston and Earl of Hardwicke).
July 26th, 1750.	Henry Read.
June 27, 1751.	William Hanbury.
August 15, „	Marquis of Rockingham.
„ 27, 1752.	Sir Matthew Featherstonehaugh.
March 22, 1753.	The Earl of Morton.
July 11, 1754.	The Earl of Shaftesbury.
Oct. 31, „	The Earl of Marchmont.
August 7, 1755.	James West.
„ 5, 1757.	The Earl of Chesterfield.
Dec. 8, 1768.	The Earl of Huntingdon.
Aug. 17, 1769.	Lord Cadogan.

In further extension of this objectionable practice, as time went on, the presentation of other dainties besides venison was regarded as a qualification for Honorary Membership of the Club. On October 4, 1750, the following resolution was entered in the Dinner-Register :

“ Andrew Mitchell Esq. [a visitor then present] proposing to compliment the company with a Turtle which he expects very soon from the West Indies :

It was resolved *nem. con.* that any Gentleman giving a Turtle annually should be considered an Honorary Member during the payment of that Annuity.”

Still more extraordinary was the resolution adopted on 3d January 1750 :

“ William Hanbury Esq. having this day entertained the company with a Chine of Beef which was 34 inches in length and weighed

¹ *Minute-book* No. 1.

upward of 140 lb, it was agreed *nem. con.* that two such Chines were equal to half a Buck or a Turtle, and entituled the donor to be an Honorary Member of this Society."

At the General Meeting of 1750 it was formally

"ordered that the Treasurer do pay Keepers' fees and carriage for all Venison sent to this Society and charge it in his account," and that "the annual gratuity of 2/6 each to the under-cooks be paid out of the Fund."

There was sometimes, however, a slip betwixt the cup and the lip in regard to these promised donations. On the day (12th October 1750) when Mr. Mitchell's Turtle was expected the following note was chronicled by the indefatigable Colebrooke:

"Andrew Mitchell Esqr's Turtle happening to die as the ship came up the Channel, the company dined as above."

And here is the Bill of fare wherewith he comforted the spirits of the disappointed *bon-vivants*:

Turkey boiled and oysters.	2 dishes Herring.
Calves head, hashed.	Tongue and udder.
Fowles and bacon.	Leg of Pork and pease.
Chine of mutton.	S ^r Loin of Beef.
Apple pye.	Plumb Pudding.
Butter and Cheese.	

The "fine" or entrance subscription to the Club was originally fixed at six shillings for each member. But the gradual increase in the cost of living, and in particular the expenses involved in connection with the numerous presents of game and turtles, made it desirable that the common fund should be augmented. Accordingly, at a meeting on 25th October 1750 presided over by Martin Folkes with fifteen members and three visitors present,

"A motion was made by Daniel Wray Esq. that for the future all Gentlemen who shall by Ballott be elected Members of this Society shall upon such election pay into the hands of the Treasurer for the time being the sum of twenty one shillings for the use of the Society instead of the former fine.

The Question being put it passed in the Affirmative, *nem. con.*"

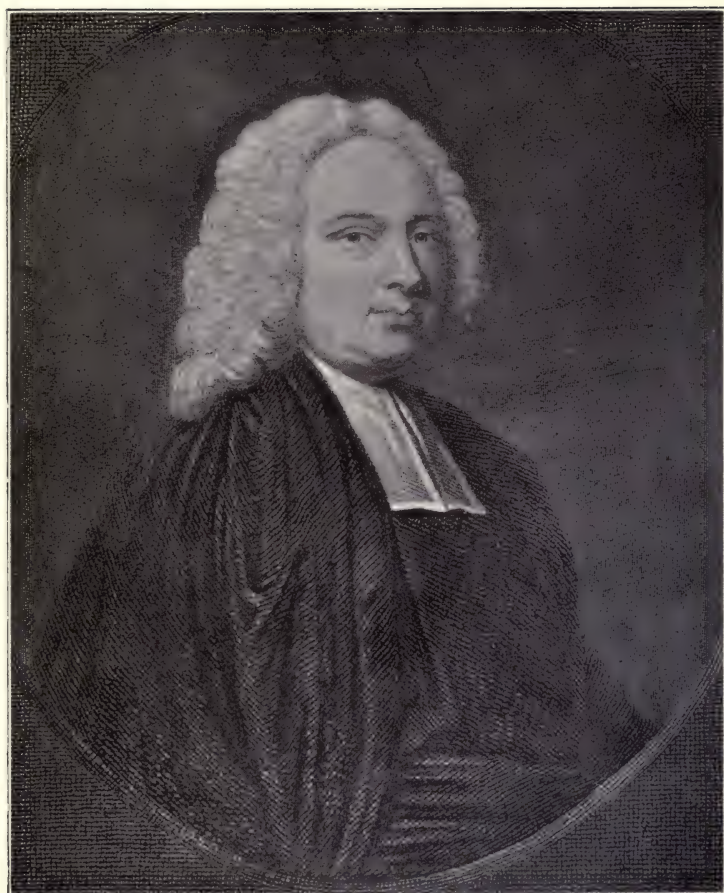
Among the recorded visitors of the Club in the year 1750 the name of Sir Francis Dashwood is found under the date of 21st February. He was perhaps in his day the most curious compound of drunkenness, profligacy, profanity, aesthetic taste, and political ambition. He must have possessed no little attractiveness, however, for Oxford had made him a D.C.L. in 1749, and the Royal Society had elected him one of its Fellows in 1746. He was one of the founders of the Dilettanti Society, for membership of which at that time, according to Horace Walpole, "the nominal qualification was having been to Italy and the real one being drunk." He played his cards so astutely that in 1762 he became for a short time Chancellor of the Exchequer under Bute. He said of himself at the time "People will point at me and cry, 'There goes the worst Chancellor of the Exchequer that ever appeared.'" He seems to have had the reputation of being "a man to whom a sum of five figures was an impenetrable secret."¹ But the most notorious incident in his chequered history was his institution of the Hell-fire Club or "Monks of Medenham Abbey"—a small company which indulged in orgies of unexampled and indescribable debauchery and blasphemy, an exploit which he achieved about five years after he dined with the Royal Philosophers, when he was no longer a youth, but was not far short of fifty.

1751. This year the Annual General Meeting was held on July 25th and was attended by thirteen members. Sir James Creed took the chair, and there were present also as visitors the Hon. Charles Yorke, Rev. Mr. Jortain, Rev. Mr. Garnett and Rev. Dr. Bradley.

From the statement by the Treasurer it appeared that the expenses during the past year had amounted to £4 8s. 6d., and that there remained a balance in his hands of £3 12s. 5d.

The list of members was read, and there was only one vacancy. It was resolved to postpone till next year the filling up of this place.

¹ Walpole's *Memoirs of the Reign of George III.*, i. 172, 250.



JAMES BRADLEY, D.D., F.R.S.

Astronomer Royal, 1742-1762.

The autumn of the year 1751 was saddened for the Club by the illness of its esteemed President, Martin Folkes. The following record occurs under date 28th November :

“ The Treasurer acquainted the Society that the President’s illness which prevented his coming abroad, was not likely to be soon removed and as it was necessary to have some gentleman take the Chair, he believed it would be agreeable to the Rt. Honble. Lord Charles Cavendish (who was and acted as Vice President of the Royal Society) to take the same office here, if he were a Member of this Society. But as the usual time for electing Members was not till July, and this being an extraordinary occasion, he moved that the Rt. Honble. Lord Charles Cavendish be now elected a Member of this Society. This was seconded by Dan. Wray Esq. and passed by acclamation *nem. con.* and the Treasurer was ordered to wait on his Lordship, and acquaint him with his election and desire his company at dinner next Thursday.”

Lord Charles Cavendish was the third son of the second Duke of Devonshire. Possessing a strong bent towards science he quietly and successfully pursued certain lines of original chemical and physical research, though he modestly refrained from publishing the results of his studies. Benjamin Franklin wrote of him :—“ It were to be wished that this noble philosopher would communicate more of his experiments to the world, as he makes many, and with great accuracy.”¹ He was elected into the Royal Society as far back as the summer of 1727. In his house in Great Marlborough Street he had a laboratory where he carried on his researches. He was the father of Henry Cavendish, one of the most original men of science that Britain has ever produced, of whom much will be said in the following pages. Lord Charles frequently presided at the dinners of the Club, and up to the time of his death in 1783, continued to take an active interest in its welfare.

A notable guest of the Club this year was the well-known politician Charles Watson-Wentworth (1730-1782), who the year before had become Marquis of Rockingham. In his youth he had served against the Jacobite insurgents, but

¹ *Works*, Boston 1856, vol. v. p. 383; quoted by J. Clerk Maxwell in *The Electrical Researches of the Hon. Henry Cavendish*, 1879, p. 1.

most of his life was devoted to parliamentary work. He became premier of the Coalition Cabinet of 1765 at the early age of thirty-five, and after he had been leader of the opposition in the House of Lords for some thirteen years, he was again charged with the office of prime-minister in the spring of 1782, the year of his death. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1751. Having sent half a buck to the Club in August of this year he was elected an Honorary member, and dined twice in that capacity.

Another visitor, Sir George Savile, Bart., was also a parliamentarian, and, like so many of his contemporaries, had in his youth fought against the Scottish rebels. Having been given a Captain's commission he raised his company of fifty Yorkshire men in three or four days. Thereafter he went to Cambridge, where he graduated M.A. and LL.D. in 1749. He began a successful parliamentary career in 1759 as member for Yorkshire, and continued to represent that constituency to the end. He was a resolute Whig, with a high character for integrity, liberality, and public spirit. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1747.

1752. The Annual General Meeting took place this year on July 30, and was attended by fifteen members and one visitor. Lord Charles Cavendish presided.

The Treasurer reported that the expenses during the year had amounted to £3 12s. 10d., and he had in hand a balance of £2 16s. 4d.

The list of members having been read over, it appeared that two members had not attended during the preceding twelve months: "they were deemed no longer members." Together with the vacancy left over from the last election there were three places to be filled. On a ballot Dr. John Pringle, Dr. Mark Akenside, and Francis Fauquier were elected. It should be noted that at this time only one of these three new members—Dr. Pringle—was F.R.S., though the two others were elected into the Society in the following February.

John Pringle, whose name will come frequently into later pages of this chronicle, was one of the noteworthy

men of his time. A Scot by birth, and of good family, he, like so many of his fellow-countrymen, had completed his medical studies at Leyden. He settled first in Edinburgh, where for ten years he was professor of metaphysics and moral philosophy in the University. His known medical attainments led to his being selected in 1742 as physician to the Earl of Stair, commanding the British Army on the Continent, and to his receiving in 1744 the appointment of Physician-General to the army in Flanders. In 1745 he accompanied the Duke of Cumberland into Scotland and was present at the battle of Culloden. In the autumn of 1748, on the conclusion of peace, he settled in London, where he soon gained an influential position, not only in the medical profession, but among the scientific circles of the metropolis. A baronetcy was conferred on him in 1766 and he became physician to George III. His reputation was high as an authority on military medicine, and his writings on this subject are still held in esteem. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1745 and was President of the Society for six years from 1772 to 1778, during which period he was an active and effective chairman of the Club. At the time of his election into the Club he was in his forty-fifth year.

Mark Akenside, besides being a popular poet, was also a trained physician. His "Pleasures of the Imagination" had appeared in January 1744 when he was only three-and-twenty years of age, and made him at once famous. There must have been some marked attraction in his personality, for during three years before his election into the Club he was constantly being invited as a visitor by one member after another. The dinner-register shows that between 21st April 1751 and the date of his election into the Club, an interval of about sixteen months, he dined with the members no fewer than thirty-three times. He had at first a hard struggle to gain a livelihood as a medical practitioner in London, and, as already mentioned, it was mainly through the generous help of a member of the Club, Jeremiah Dyson, that he surmounted his difficulties and secured a

large practice. He became F.R.S. on 8th February 1753, at the age of thirty-two.

In some years the presents of venison and other viands for the table poured in upon the Club both from members and outsiders. The summer of 1752 was one of these seasons of plenty. Venison arrived in abundance, followed by the customary election of the donor as an honorary member and the drinking of his health in claret, which, as the Treasurer continued to record, was paid for by the company who consumed it. The Honourable Philip Yorke, Sir Matthew Featherstonehaugh, Dr. Heberden, Mr. Stanhope, and the Marquis of Rockingham are duly chronicled for their gifts. There were likewise presents of water-melons from Spain and Portugal. But all the good things that arrived at the Mitre were not destined for the Royal Philosophers. There is a significant entry in the Register for 2nd July. "The Company were this day forced to dine in a room different from what they used to dine in, by a Turtle being dressed in the house which weighed 400 lbs." No share of this delicacy came to them : on the contrary, as it happened, the Treasurer had provided for them a somewhat less formidable dinner than usual.

As there was peace with France between the years 1748 and 1755 opportunity was given for an exchange of visits between men of science in that country and in England. Among the Frenchmen who came to London and received the hospitality of the Royal Society perhaps the most noted was M. Clairault, one of the illustrious geometers of France, who in later years made some remarkable deductions regarding the time of the return of Halley's Comet. He dined three times with the Club during the winter of 1752-3, and again in the spring and early summer of 1754. He was one of a mission (which included Maupertuis) sent to Lapland to measure a degree of the meridian with a view to determine the figure of our planet.

CHAPTER III

PRESIDENTSHIP OF THE EARL OF MACCLESFIELD,

1752-1764

ON account of the state of his health, Martin Folkes, on 30th November 1752, retired from the Presidency of the Royal Society, and the Earl of Macclesfield was chosen to succeed him. The Earl had been elected one of the Royal Philosophers on 6th February preceding, and had repeatedly dined with the Club in the course of the spring and summer. He attended at the first dinner after St. Andrew's Day and took his place as President of the Club. As second Earl of Macclesfield he was at this time a prominent member of the House of Lords. He took a keen interest in scientific subjects, was himself a mathematician and astronomer, and had erected an observatory in which, with the assistance of Bradley, he had instituted the finest instrumental equipment then in existence. He there carried on a series of personal observations from 1740 up to his death in 1764. He deserves to be remembered also as being virtually the author of the "Bill for regulating the Commencement of the Year," and consequently as being mainly instrumental in procuring the change from the Old Style to the New in 1752.

1753. The Annual General Meeting of the Club in the year 1753 was held on July 26th, when sixteen members and five visitors attended, the chair being filled by James Burrow. The Treasurer stated that his disbursements since last election day amounted to £1 7s., and that he had a balance in hand of £4 19s. 4d.

One member had not attended any meeting during the past twelve months, and "it was unanimously agreed that he should no longer be deemed a member." The Minute states that

"A list of the candidates being read over, and it appearing that Mr. Phillip Miller, having been an antient member of this Society, but being out of Town when the regulation of the Society was made in 1749, and having applied as a Candidate ever since June 1752, it was unanimously agreed that the present vacancy should be supplied by him, and that he should pay only the original fine of six shillings, but that this should not be a precedent for the future, and he was accordingly elected."

None of the guests entertained by the Club this year need be specially referred to. The Treasurer has recorded that on 14th June "an extra Mitre," that is, a special Club-dinner, was held at Dagenham Breach, an angling resort in Essex, on the north side of the lower Thames. On this entry in the dinner-register Admiral Smyth remarks: "This was no doubt an excursion trip of the Club to scrutinise the effects of the singular and destructive inundation which had breached the ancient embankment to nearly twenty feet in depth, laid open a buried forest and blown up the sluice; or perhaps the party went to fish in the well-known pool which it left." ¹

As an indication of the change of social habit between then and now, it should be remarked that not only did the Club meet every week, but the dinners in the autumn were often almost as well attended as at any other time of the year. The Royal Society might adjourn for a summer vacation, but the Club made no interruption in the sequence of its weekly meetings. In 1753, for instance, the average attendance at the dinners between July and November was 14, usually including one or more guests. During the previous months of January and February, in the full height of the winter, the average attendance was 20. There was obviously at that time no extensive

¹ *Rise and Progress of the Royal Society Club*, p. 24. The Treasurer appears to have been an angler (see p. 101).

migration in summer or autumn from London to foreign parts, nor even to quarters inland or to retreats by the sea.

1754. At the Annual General Meeting held on July 25, 1754, with the Earl of Macclesfield in the chair, there were sixteen other members present, together with two guests, one of whom was Professor Bradley. The Treasurer reported that his disbursements since the last Annual General Meeting had been £2 13s. 6d., leaving in his hands a balance of £2 14s. 10d.

Although Lord Macclesfield had taken the chair at the first Club-dinner after his election as President of the Royal Society, and for more than eighteen months had presided over all the meetings at which he was present, the punctilious Treasurer took occasion of the death of the late President to have the Chairmanship of the Club formally sanctioned by a vote of the members, and submitted to the Annual General Meeting the following statement, the Earl being at the time actually in the chair: "The Treasurer acquainted the Society that Martin Folkes Esq. our late worthy President was dead, and that this being Election-day, the Society should chuse some other Gent^ln for that office, accordingly the Right Hon^{ble} The Earl of Macclesfield was desired to accept of that Office, which he did in a very Genteel manner."

At the same meeting two members who had not attended during the previous twelve months were declared to be no longer members of this Society. Two new members were elected to fill the vacancies thus caused, together with a third to fill the vacant place arising from the death of the late President, viz. Paul Whichcote, Dr. Robert Watson (F.R.S. 1750), and Dr. Charlton Wollaston (F.R.S. 1756). It may be remarked that one of the two ejected members, who had belonged to the Club since 1748, was never elected into the Royal Society, that Dr. Wollaston was not so elected until two years after he joined the Club, and that Paul Whichcote, one of the new members, never became F.R.S.¹

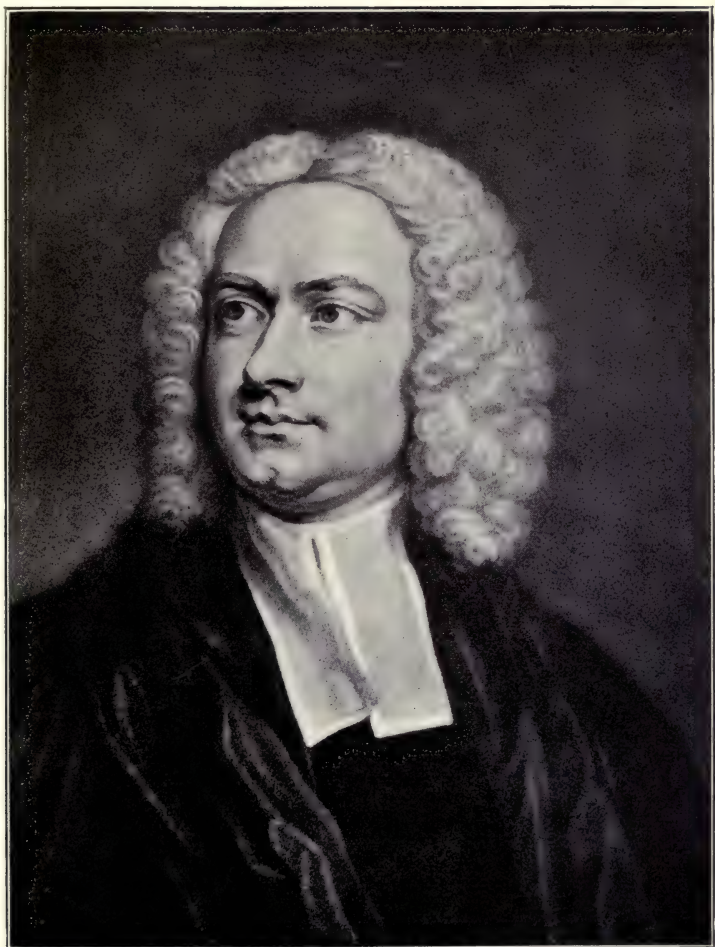
¹ There was a baronet of the same name who became F.R.S. in 1674.

It may be remarked here that at the end of each minute of the business transacted at the Annual General Meeting the Treasurer carefully records that "Josiah Colebrooke was continued Treasurer and thanks were ordered him for his care." This entry concludes the minute, but as years go on it grows shorter, until at last it becomes merely "Colebrooke, Treas^r with thanks," but it is never omitted even up to the last minute in his handwriting.

The year 1754 was another year especially marked in the annals of the Club by gifts for the table. The Earl of Marchmont, who was not infrequently present as a visitor, had a special dainty to bestow in the shape of "pickled salmon," which is duly recorded by the Treasurer as having been found "most excellent." It was apparently so good and the company of the donor so agreeable that his health was toasted and he was made an honorary member of the Club. This Marchmont fish appeared at successive dinners, and was continued from time to time for a number of years, until the Earl forfeited his membership by non-attendance for twelve months. Gifts of venison came from Lord Royston, the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Marquis of Rockingham, Mr. Charles Stanhope, Sir Matthew Featherstonehaugh, and Dean Lyttelton. So great was the supply of venison that an additional dinner was called for. The Treasurer's minute on 11th July is to the following effect :

"The Company being this day entertained with venison from Rt. Honble. Viscount Royston his health was drank in claret and the Extra reckoning paid by the Company present and not out of the Fund. The Earl of Shaftesbury having sent halfe a Buck to entertain this Society, it was agreed to meet on Saturday next the 13 of July to eat the same and ordered that his Lordship be registered an Honorary member." Accordingly, on the day appointed the dinner is recorded as "an extra Mitre on account of venison sent in by the Earl of Shaftesbury and Visc^t Royston."

On the 5th September the Club partook of a turtle sent for its entertainment by the First Lord of the Admiralty, the illustrious Admiral Lord Anson. Josiah Colebrooke, with his accustomed care, records that this turtle weighed 115 lbs. Later in the same month James West, who had



THOMAS BIRCH, D.D.

Sec. R.S., 1752.

been a Fellow of the Royal Society since 1726 but had not joined the dining club, sent a turtle which, the Treasurer states, weighed 60 lbs. The donor came as a visitor to partake of the good cheer, and next week sent another turtle (weight 70 lbs.) and again attended. Next year, when he repeated his benefaction, the Club made him one of its honorary members. He was a prominent barrister of the Inner Temple, member of Parliament for more than thirty years, and a Fellow of considerable influence in the Royal Society, of which he was chosen President in 1768.

The member of the Club whose gigantic chine of beef had been faithfully recorded in the annals of the Club for 1751 is not mentioned among the donors of 1753. But at the beginning of next year the following minute was made on January 2nd:

"The Chine of Beefe was presented by Wm. Hanbury Esq. who having been a little deficient with regard to annual payments of Chines of Beefe added three brace of very large Carp by way of Interest."

It is satisfactory to know that the donor of the gift was present at the dinner. His donation was termed by the Treasurer "a mighty Chine of Beefe of 112 lbs. weight."

Of the foreign guests entertained by the Club during 1754 the most interesting and memorable was Count Poniatowski, who dined on July 4th. He seems to have been invited by the President, the Earl of Macclesfield. Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski, born on 17th January 1732, was a young man of two-and-twenty when he paid a visit to London. He was one of the sons of Count Poniatowski, a Polish nobleman who married the Princess Constance Czartorysky, belonging to one of the most powerful families in Poland. At the time of his birth an Italian astrologer is said to have predicted he would be a king, and his family, perhaps to aid the fulfilment of this prophecy, gave him a patronymic of the royal house of Poland. He grew up singularly handsome, had great charm of manners, and was everywhere a

welcome guest.¹ Moreover, he early showed a taste for literature, which gave him an added attraction in cultivated society. After having served for some years in the Russian army he came into the possession of considerable wealth in 1752, a good deal of which he dissipated in Paris and London. The year after he dined with the Club at the Mitre he was induced to go to St. Petersburg with the English Envoy Extraordinary, Sir Charles Hanbury Williams, by whom he was introduced at the Russian Court. His good looks and pleasant address captivated the Princess Catharine, who afterwards became Empress. Eventually, largely through her potent influence and that of his mother's family, and with a unanimity that was rare in the annals of Poland, he was made King of that country, and ascended the throne on 7th September 1764, by the name and titles of Stanislaus Augustus, King of Poland and Grand Duke of Lithuania. The King of Prussia profited by the occasion to indite with his own hand a letter to the new King, in which he lectured him on his future, pointing out with patronising insistence that "as he enjoyed a crown by election and not by descent, the world would be more observant of his actions than those of any other potentate in Europe. From a man exalted, by the voice of his equals, from a subject to a King, from a man voluntarily elected to reign over those by whom he was chosen, everything is expected that can possibly deserve and adorn a crown." Frederic seems to have thought that some apology was required for the needless "warmth" of this moral discourse, which he declared to be "the effusion of the sincerest regard."²

Poor Stanislaus Augustus was helped, neither by the great potentates around him nor by the harmonious support of his own people, to achieve what in more favourable conditions he might have accomplished. During the earlier years of his reign he strove to introduce reforms into the

¹ Horace Walpole, writing on May 14, 1754, asks "Have you seen young Poniatowski? He is very handsome." The young Pole kept up his relations with friends whose acquaintance he made at the time in England.

² *Annual Register*, 1764, p. 14.

government of the country, but his efforts were thwarted by the machinations of the surrounding greater powers. Slice after slice was cut away from his territory. When at last the Poles rose in resistance under Joseph Poniatowski and Kosciusko, the King, though he had sworn to defend the constitution even to the death, refused to join the patriots who raised the standard of independence. He was ignominiously compelled to denounce Kosciusko as a criminal, while he himself remained in Warsaw, where, surrounded with Polish traitors and Russian agents, he continued to retain the regal state which he had so greatly enjoyed for thirty years. When the final partition of Poland was determined on, Stanislaus Augustus received from Catharine in January 1795 an order to leave his capital and betake himself to Grodno, where on the following St. Catherine's Day (25th November) he was compelled to sign his abdication. After a stay of about two years in Grodno he was summoned to St. Petersburg by Catharine's successor. But he did not long enjoy the pension of 200,000 ducats assigned to him by the robber powers. He was cut off by an attack of apoplexy on 12th February 1798 at the age of sixty-six.

To the end Stanislaus Augustus retained his liking for England and the English. The Royal Society, soon after he came to the throne, had elected him a Fellow, partly no doubt in remembrance of his visit to London, and probably in part also out of sympathy with his unfortunate country amid the troubles out of which it was hoped that he might help to deliver her. Among his plans for the improvement of his native country he designed to form an art gallery in Warsaw, and many pictures for it were purchased in England. But, as will be narrated on a later page, the design fell to the ground and the pictures still remain in England. With them is preserved at the picture gallery of Dulwich College a touching letter from King Stanislaus written only a month before he had to sign his abdication. It is addressed to the Envoy of England at Grodno who was about to leave a country which

had no longer any independent existence. The King seems to cling to the last link that connected him with England, and is anxious to have one more talk with the English representative.

It will be remembered that in the list of toasts enumerated by Sir Joseph Ayloffe (p. 7) as having been proposed in his time at the dinners of the Royal Society Club, the health of the King of Poland was given. Sympathy with the fate of that unhappy country might perhaps have suggested this inclusion. But if the toast ever became customary it more probably had a personal relation to the fact that the last King of Poland had been a guest of the Club when he was Count Poniatowski, and had left behind him pleasant recollections of his visit.

M. Clairault, already referred to (p. 44), again dined with the Club four times in the spring.

One of the guests this year was Lord Cadogan, whose family name as well as that of his father-in-law are attached to a number of street-names in the south-west of London. Entering the army in 1706 he served in some of Marlborough's campaigns, and also in 1715 against the rebellious Scots. He succeeded to his father's barony in 1726, and married a daughter of Sir Hans Sloane, whose manor of Chelsea thus came into his possession. It is interesting to know that some of the familiar thoroughfares that have been driven through the estate which Sir Hans Sloane purchased, such as Sloane Street and Hans Place, are reminiscent of one who was a noted personage in his day. Sloane was an enthusiastic naturalist, and in the course of his life amassed extensive collections. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society on January 21, 1684-5, was Secretary of the Society from 1693 to 1712 and succeeded Sir Isaac Newton in the Presidential Chair, which he filled for fourteen years from 1727 to 1741. He was the first of the long line of English physicians to be made baronet—an honour conferred on him by George I. in 1716. He died in January 1753, at the great age of 92. Next year, which was that where-with we are now concerned in the history of the Club,

his large museum and library were purchased by the State and formed part of the nucleus of the British Museum.

Another guest of the Club, Hugh Hume, Earl of Marchmont, to whom reference has already been made (p. 48), had, like many other Scotsmen of good family, received part of his education at the universities of Holland. In his youth, when he was Lord Polwarth, he entered Parliament as member for Berwick and gained a high reputation in the House of Commons. When he made his first appearance there he was described by Smollett as a "nobleman of elegant parts, keen penetration, and uncommon sagacity, who spoke with all the fluency and fervour of elocution." In 1740 he succeeded to the peerage as third Earl of Marchmont. This change removed him for a time from Parliament and active politics, but he devoted his energies to agriculture, forestry, gardening and horsemanship. He was a friend of Bolingbroke and Pope, and one of the poet's executors. He was also acquainted with Johnson. Eventually in 1750 he re-entered Parliament as one of the representative Peers of Scotland and retained that position until he retired from public life in 1784. He was a man of generous character and attractive manners, which were evidently fully appreciated by the Royal Philosophers, who, as already stated, this year made him an honorary member of their Club, while he on his side enjoyed their company and continued for many years to dine with them and to send his presents to their table.¹

An Englishman whose name appears frequently in the Register about this time as a guest of the Club was Charles Lyttelton (1714-1768), who began as a barrister of the Middle Temple, but soon exchanged that profession for the Church, in which his family influence procured him rapid

¹ Boswell records, as an instance of the Earl's good humour, that he used to tell that "the master of a shop in London, where he was not known, said to him, 'I suppose Sir, you are an American?' 'Why so, Sir?' (said his Lordship). 'Because, Sir, (replied the shopkeeper,) you speak neither English nor Scotch, but something different from both, which I conclude is the language of America.'" *Life of Johnson*, ii. p. 160. Pope tells that "the bright flame was shot through Marchmont's soul."

advancement. At the end of 1747 he was appointed Chaplain to George II., next year he became Dean and subsequently Bishop of Exeter, and finally Bishop of Carlisle. He appears to have been of a genial disposition, and a favourite visitor at the Club. He was elected F.R.S. in 1742.

Dr. Bradley continued to dine from time to time at the Club. On October 10th of this year he was accompanied by his associate, the Rev. Nathaniel Bliss, the Savilian Professor of Geometry at Oxford, who used to assist him at the Observatory, where he ultimately succeeded him. Bliss became F.R.S. in 1742.

For some time during the year 1754 the attendance at the dinners had continued to be so full that on 31st October it was deemed expedient to order provision for a company of eighteen at each dinner. Such crowded tables, however, could hardly be counted on as a permanence. Moreover, a good deal of outlay had arisen from the fees and other expenses connected with the presents of venison, turtle and salmon, and the Treasurer at last found his Fund so depleted as to necessitate a demand for fresh contributions. Accordingly at a special meeting called for 29th May 1755, in order to consider this matter, the following decisions were made :

1755. " Resolved *nem. con.* that a call should be made on each Member of five shillings for support of the Fund and that the Treasurer do collect the same as he sees the Members.

It was moved and seconded that each Member absenting himself from the Club for two months or longer should forfeit five shillings for the Use of the Society and that this order should not interfere with the Former one of excluding those who had been absent twelve months: the Question being put it was carried in the affirmative.

Ordered that the Treasurer do write to those Members who are absent to acquaint them with the above resolutions."

These resolutions were not only entered in the Minute-book by the Treasurer in his own handwriting but also in the Dinner-register, where he procured the signatures of the members present. Hence under the date of 29th May of this year the book shows a group of autographs including those of the President, Lord Charles Cavendish, Mark Aken-

side, Gowin Knight, Thomas Birch and others. The effect of these precautions is shown in the subjoined Minute of November 27, 1755.

“ The Treasurer informed the Society that the Members having paid five shillings each for the Supply of the Fund pursuant to the resolution of the 29th of May, he had a sufficient sum in his hands to make good any deficiency that should happen for a long time to come, and therefore moved that so much of the order of May 29 as related to the fining each Member who absented himself for two months should be repealed ; The Question being put, it was carried in the Affirmative.”

The Annual General Meeting of 1755 was held on July 31, when there were present :

James Burrow in the Chair.

Charles Stanhope.	Dr. William Watson.
John Cooksey.	Dr. William Heberden.
Dr. Squire.	Dr. Thomas Birch.
Paul Whichcote.	Phillip Miller.
Richard Roderick.	Dr. Mark Akenside.
Peter Newcome.	George Bell.
Dr. Charlton Wollaston.	Dr. Nicholas Munckley.
Peter Davall.	William Hall.
Daniel Wray.	Jeremiah Dyson.
John Ellicott.	

Josiah Colebrooke, Treasurer.

The Treasurer reported that his disbursements had amounted to £6 7s. 11d., and that a balance of £8 8s. 11d. remained in his hands. From his register it appears that the total number of persons that dined at the Club since the last Anniversary was 904, composed of 742 members and 162 visitors.

Several resignations having been received, the meeting proceeded to elect new members, and after a ballot of the Candidates according to seniority of proposal, the following gentlemen were elected :—Isaac Hawkins Browne (F.R.S. 1770), Robert More (F.R.S. 1729), Samuel Clarke (F.R.S. 1735) and Joseph Warner (F.R.S. 1750).

Gifts for the table continued to be furnished in abundance by members and well-wishers outside. Lord Marchmont

provided his approved pickled salmon. The Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Royston, Dr. Heberden and Sir Matthew Featherstonehaugh presented venison, and their healths were duly honoured in the customary bumpers of claret, "paid for by the company." On one occasion half of the venison appeared on the table, and the claret was duly quaffed in recognition of the gift, while the other half was reserved for the following week when the worthy donor's health was again drunk, but whether in claret does not appear. The painstaking Treasurer, after having with a flourish written at the end of his record of a dinner "No Demand" from his Fund, adds with a feebler hand, "but for a china plate broke at Dinner, 1/11." On another occasion, after a record of the thanks of the Company to a donor of venison and the health-drinking in claret, there is a penitent-looking addition of "a water-glass broke, 9d."

The attendance this year during August and September, while on the whole good, somewhat fluctuated, though it seldom fell below the number provided for, so as to involve a demand on the Fund. But it must be confessed that the prospect of a turtle-dinner had a marked effect in attracting a large company. Mr. James West presented a turtle on 7th August and another on 18th September. On the first occasion there came twenty-three members and seven guests. The turtle was served in four dishes and the donor was admitted an Honorary Member of the Club. At the later dinner, when the numbers were eighteen members and four guests, the Register records that the President (Earl of Macclesfield), "having been absent for more than two months paid the fine of 5/." Both these dinners were attended by Dr. Heberden, Dr. Knight, Dr. Pringle and Dr. Akenside—a medical phalanx which is a further indication that no large exodus of the civilian population had taken place in London during the autumnal months.

Not many foreign guests are recorded in the dinner lists for this year. The two most notable are the Comte d'Estaing and M. de Bougainville, who were both present at the dinner on 12th June. The family of Estaing was



GOWIN KNIGHT, M.B., F.R.S., 1745.

an old and distinguished one in France. If, as is probable, the representative of it who dined with the Club was Charles Hector who was born in 1724, his career was strenuous but troubled. He served at first in the French army in India, was wounded and taken prisoner at the siege of Madras. Subsequently he entered the French navy and carried out some successful attacks on the forts in British India. On his way home he fell into the hands of an English cruiser. Accused of having broken his parole at Madras he was brought to England, where he had no difficulty in disproving the accusation. Subsequently he took an active part in helping the naval plans of the infant United States. When the French Revolution came he was brought before the revolutionary tribunal, where he boldly confined himself to recounting his services to his country, concluding with the words: "When you shall have made my head fall at the guillotine send it to the English; they will pay you well for it." Louis Antoine de Bougainville (1729-1814) had also a varied history both on land and sea. He came to England in 1754 as Secretary of the French Embassy in London. On the outbreak of war with France in North America during the summer of 1755 he was recalled and was sent as a Captain of Dragoons to join the French forces in Canada, where he was appointed aide-de-camp to Montcalm. His valour in the fighting was remarkable, but when peace came he resolved to quit the army and take to a sailor's life. He became a famous navigator and explorer, being the first French captain who circumnavigated the globe. Besides his peaceful voyages of discovery in arctic latitudes and on the vast Pacific Ocean, he was engaged in naval encounters with the British fleets in the West Indies. His scientific merit was recognised by the Royal Society which elected him into its membership in 1756, and it is averred that the British Arctic expedition of Captain Phipps in 1773 was based on plans which M. de Bougainville had submitted to the Society.

The English guests this year included a few who may be mentioned here. The Earl of Morton, who was to play an

important part in the history of the Club, dined as a visitor on 16th January, Charles Lyttelton, Dean of Exeter, was again an occasional guest, as were also Lord Cadogan and Lord Aberdour, son of the Earl of Morton. Dr. Bradley, the Astronomer Royal, came from time to time. Among the members who most frequently attended were Lord Willoughby of Parham, Lord Charles Cavendish and Mark Akenside.

1756. The price of the dinner at the Mitre had remained without change for some years. But the cost of provisions had risen and the landlord of the tavern in the spring of 1756 proposed that the price should be raised. The matter was discussed at a meeting of the Club on 8th April in that year when the subjoined Minute was made :

“ The Treasurer was desired to acquaint Mr. Cole that the Members of the Society are willing to pay for the future three shillings per head for Dinner and wine, provided they be better attended, but that the Commons for absentees should still remain at 1/6 as usual and report Mr. Cole’s Answer.”

Next week

“ The Treasurer reported that Mr. Cole willingly accepted the proposal of April 8th and would take care to have an extra Waiter to attend the Company on that account. The question being put it passed in the Affirmative.”

Again the cautious Treasurer transcribed this agreement into his dinner-register, and had it signed by the members present, with “ Macclesfield, President ” at the top and “ M. Akenside ” at the foot.

The dinners included the usual gifts of venison. Mr. West supplied his turtle. Mr. Hanbury, in Colebrooke’s fervid language, “ entertained the Company with an Homeric Chine of Beef and his health was particularly drank and thanks returned him for it.” It should be added that Mr. Hanbury was there in person to receive the plaudits of his colleagues.

Among the guests entertained this year a number of noblemen were included. Besides the President, there came the Earl of Marchmont, whose gifts of pickled salmon still

flourished on the Club's table, the Earl of Morton, a future President of the Royal Society, Lord Royston, staunch friend and supporter of the Club, the veteran Lord Willoughby and Lord Cadogan.

The Annual General Meeting in 1756 was held on 29th July and was attended by sixteen members and one visitor, the chair being taken by James Burrow. The Treasurer's financial statement showed that the charges connected with venison and other dainties presented to the Club had during the interval since the last General Meeting amounted to £1 14s. 9d., and that the deficiencies arising from non-attendance came to £5 2s. 9d., leaving a balance in his hands of £8 7s. 5d. As there were only two vacancies in the membership, and eight candidates for admission, it was agreed to postpone election until next year.

The Treasurer's expectation in the autumn of 1755 that his last call for subscriptions had replenished the Fund to such a degree that he felt he could meet all claims for a long time to come appeared to justify the Club in ordering the weekly dinner for eighteen, and this was accordingly done on 30th October of that year. The arrangement appears to have continued through the winter and spring till the middle of July 1756, when the number was prudently reduced to twelve. When, however, the Club mustered to the number of nineteen on 4th November, with the President in the chair, it was boldly resolved to return to the provision for eighteen. But immediately thereafter came a marked falling off in the attendance, entailing a concomitant drain on the Fund. A fortnight after the increased provision had been decided upon, a deficiency of three was registered, next week this number rose to five and the following Thursday to nine. At most of the dinners the required limit was not reached.

1757. By the end of March 1757 the Treasurer was compelled to announce to the Club that "the Fund grew so low that a Supply would be absolutely necessary before the Venison Season." To meet the expenses which the gifts of that season entailed he had only in hand the sum of £1 4s. 5d.

Another levy of 5s. from each member of the Club was accordingly ordered, and as deficiencies in attendance had been so serious the number for whom commons were to be provided at each dinner was reduced to twelve.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 28th July 1757 there were seventeen members present, but no visitors, and the chair was again taken by James Burrow. According to the statement submitted by the Treasurer it appeared that the disbursements in connection with the gifts for the table amounted to £1 8s. 6d., and that those caused by deficiencies in the attendance of members came to £9 10s. 6d., leaving in his hands a balance of £5 13s. 11d.

Five vacancies in the membership were declared, Dr. Robert Watson and Richard Roderick had died; Francis Fauquier and Jonathan Richardson, unable to attend frequently, wished to retire in favour of candidates who could give more constant attendance, and Jeremiah Dyson, not having been present for more than a year, had forfeited his membership. As the result of the ballot the members elected were Welbore Ellis,¹ Arthur Pond, Taylor White, Lord Cadogan and Dr. Noah Thomas. Mr. Ellis (*ante*, p. 31) had been elected into the Royal Society in 1745, Mr. Pond in 1752, Mr. White in 1725, Lord Cadogan (*ante*, p. 52) in 1718, and Dr. Thomas in 1753. The last-named member was a physician of some eminence in London. He was knighted in 1775. A fine portrait of him by Romney hangs in the hall of St. John's College, Cambridge.

It was the practice of the Club, as it was of the Royal Society, to have at its meetings from time to time the representatives of foreign Governments. This year M. Mello e Castro, the Ambassador from Portugal, who had shortly before been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, was a guest of the Club. He seems to have been an amiable and unobtrusive member of the diplomatic body. When he left London, Horace Walpole wrote to Lady Mary Coke "Our loo parties are receiving a great loss by the departure of

¹ Mr. Ellis being out of England, it was decided at the General Meeting next year that his election should be void.

Mello, who is suddenly recalled to fill a chief place in the ministry." ¹

In the list of the company on March 10th there occurs the name of "Mr. Pennant." There can hardly be any doubt that this was Thomas Pennant, the careful and observant traveller and naturalist to whom we owe some of the earliest descriptions of the scenery, natural history, and antiquities of large areas of the British Isles, and whose works on zoology stand out as landmarks in the progress of science. He was elected F.R.S. in 1767. At the time he first dined with the Club he was thirty-one years of age, and had not yet published the series of volumes which have made him famous.

But undoubtedly the most conspicuously eminent visitor to the Club this year was the illustrious Benjamin Franklin. In recognition of the value of his contributions to science the Royal Society had awarded to him in 1753 the Copley Medal, its highest honour, which was "delivered to be transmitted to him by the care of his worthy friend Peter Collinson." In making the presentation the President said, "This mark of distinction is doubly due to Mr. Franklin. It is due to him as a philosopher ; it is due to him as a man. The successful experiments of this philosopher have given us probable hopes of being one day able to secure ourselves from the dreadful effects of lightning. And the public spirit, the modesty, the goodness and benevolence of the man have been long conspicuous, and the effects of them long felt in the country where he resides." ² On April 29th 1756 the Society further testified its appreciation of his work by electing him one of its Fellows. Not only was he a brilliant man of science, he showed that he was likewise a keen-sighted politician and ardent patriot. Among our Colonists of North America opposition to the representatives of the home Government and the first beginnings of the agitation for independence had arisen. Franklin was sent by his fellow citizens in the summer of 1757 on his

¹ *Letters*, Mrs. Toynbee's Edition, vii. 340.

² *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1753, p. 587.

first mission to England with the view of representing their views and of coming to an understanding with the Government on the subject. He landed in this country on 27th July, and a fortnight thereafter he was one of the guests at the dinner of the Royal Philosophers. He remained in England for five years and sailed again for America in August 1762. During this prolonged sojourn here he became a much valued friend of many Fellows of the Royal Society and members of the Club. He has put on record in a letter to his son the circumstances in which, as he learnt, he had been elected into the Royal Society. Though the letter properly belongs to the time of his second mission to England in 1766, the particulars which it gives may be appropriately quoted here. He tells that, having occasion to be a good deal at the rooms of the Society, "I had then an opportunity of looking over the old Council-books and Journals of the Society, and having a curiosity to see how I came in, of which I had never been informed, I looked back to the Minutes relating to it. You must know it is not usual to admit persons who have not requested to be admitted, and a recommendatory certificate in favour of the candidate signed by at least three of the members, is by our rule to be presented to the Society, expressing that he is desirous of that honour, and is so and so qualified. As I never had asked or expected the honour, I was, as I said before, curious to see how the business was managed. I found that the certificate, worded very advantageously for me, was signed by Lord Macclesfield, then President, Lord Parker and Lord Willoughby; that the election was by a unanimous vote; and the honour being voluntarily conferred by the Society, unsolicited by me, it was thought wrong to demand or to receive the usual fees or composition; so that my name was entered on the list with a vote of Council *that I was not to pay anything*, and accordingly nothing has ever been demanded of me. Those who are admitted in the common way pay five guineas admission fees, and two guineas and a half yearly contribution, or twenty-five guineas down in lieu

of it. In my case a substantial favour accompanied the honour." ¹

It is deserving of record that on the 10th of November 1757, Lord Macclesfield, President of the Club, proposed the Honourable Henry Cavendish as a Candidate for admission. The proposal was made at a dinner where his father, Lord Charles Cavendish, was present, probably sitting next to the President. The young man had never yet been a guest of the Club, but he was known to be interested in physical science, and we may surmise that the design of electing him a member was the outcome of a conversation between the two noblemen on this occasion. It has been insinuated that the relations between father and son were not altogether harmonious, owing to parental dissatisfaction with the youth's refusal to enter upon public or professional life. Clerk Maxwell, however, has shown that this insinuation is at variance with the evidence supplied in the papers left by Cavendish, which prove that for years Lord Charles was occupied conjointly with his son in carrying on electrical and other researches in his laboratory in Great Marlborough Street, where Henry lived with him under the paternal roof.² The ill-founded assertion is now further negated by the testimony of the records of the Royal Society Club. It is there manifest that Lord Charles introduced his son into the Club and went there with him again and again during the interval that elapsed between Lord Macclesfield's proposal and Henry Cavendish's election. It was on 15th June 1758 that the young philosopher first sat at the table of the Club as a visitor, and on July 31st 1760 he was admitted to membership.

The longest entry in the weekly Register this year has reference to an amusing satirical "petition" written by Lord Chesterfield and apparently circulated privately among his friends. On August 25, at a meeting where

¹ Letters to his son, William Franklin, from London, 19th December 1767. *Life*, vol. i. p. 554.

² *The Electrical Researches of Henry Cavendish*, Introduction, p. xxviii.

the President was in the chair, and Benjamin Franklin a guest,

"A Petition from the Earl of Chesterfield to the King desiring a Pension, and giving reasons why it should be granted him, communicated by Mr. Stanhope, was read, with which the Company were so well entertained that the President [the Earl of Macclesfield] moved that his Lordship should be chosen an Honourary Member for the year ensuing, which was accordingly done by Acclamation, *nem. con.*: his Lordship's health was drank as a Benefactor and Mr. Stanhope was desired to inform his Lordship of it."

At the meeting in the following week

"Mr. Stanhope reported that he had informed the Earl of Chesterfield of his Election and that his Lordship returned the Society thanks for the Honour they had done him. The Treasurer, being absent the 25th of August when the Earl of Chesterfield was Elected an Honourary Member on account of the Petition, wrote to Mr. Stanhope desiring a copy of the Petition to be inserted in the Records of the Society."

At the dinner on the 8th September it was recorded that

"Mr. Stanhope produced the Treasurer's letter, but as he was under an obligation to Lord Chesterfield not to give a copy of the Petition to any one, he could not comply with the request, but desired the letter might be read, and the same being read accordingly, on the motion of the Chairman [Mr. Burrow] it was unanimously ordered by the Company present that the said letter be transcribed into the records and that a sufficient space be left for inserting the Petition when they shall obtain a copy of it."

The scrupulous Treasurer consequently with his own hand transcribed his letter at full length in the official Register of the dinners, and as it is the only sample of his epistolary style which has been preserved in the archives of the Club, it seems to deserve a place in any detailed narrative of the Club's history. It is here given *verbatim et literatim*.

Hon^d Sir,

When Men are under difficultys of any kind, it is most natural for them to apply to such of their Friends as have power to remove them ; this makes me take the liberty of applying to you to extricate me from a perplexity the minutes of the meeting at the Mitre on the 25th past have involved me in.

I Flatter myself that your wonted goodness will forgive my giving you this trouble, but as y^e minute stands on Dr. Birch's Paper, it requires a comment to explain it.



NEVIL MASKELYNE, D.D., F.R.S.

Astronomer Royal, 1765-1811.



His words are, 'The Earl of Chesterfield's petition to the King, communicated by Mr Stanhope, whose health was drank as a benefactor'; and in the next Paragraph he adds, 'The Earl of Chesterfield's health was drank as a Benefactor on account of the Petition above-mentioned, and being proposed by the President was by Acclamation chosen an honorary Member for the year ensuing.'

The great difficulty I labour under is, how this minute may be interpreted by some future Philosopher into whose hands this manuscript may possibly fall;

A Nobleman chose a Member of a Dining club, for communicating a Petition to the King, will appear very abstruse, unless a description further than the word Petition implies, be added; every one knows the meaning of the words Venison, Turtle and Chine of Beef, the things are objects of our senses, we know the tast of them, but when a higher entertainment is offered to our understandings, unless the Ingredients that compose it are specified, Posterity will be at a loss, to know whether this petition &c. was not a name given to some new dish of that Nobleman's invention.

You will pardon my taking up so much of your time, but as my records have hitherto taken notice of Substantial forms only, such as may be tasted, Tho' Wit and Humour entertain the mind, yet as it will be very difficult to express them in a bill Fare without giving them at full length, I must beg the favour of you to furnish me with a Copy of this Petition to be inserted in the Annals of the Mitre Club, and assure you that it shall not by my means go out of my own hands, but with the records of the Society when they shall be transmitted to some future Treasurer.

I have the more reason to urge this, as it will be a precedent, and may serve as well for a Standard of Wit as the trial peices of Gold and Silver kept in the Exchequer do, for the Standard of our Gold and Silver Coins.

Should it beknown abroad that the Mitre Club admitted Honourary Members for peices of Wit and Humour exhibited at their meetings, we should find so many Candidates for that honour, that the Club would be much embarrassed, and altho we could without any difficulty impannell a jury of Criticks to Assay their performances, yet it would be impossible for them to give a verdict without having such a certain Standard (as this Petition is) to try them by.

I will therefore take the Liberty to wait on you some morning the beginning next week and Am

with Great Respect

S^r Your most Humble
Serv^t

Jos^h Colebrooke

Budge Row
Sept 2 1757

To Chas Stanhope Esq.

The Treasurer's appeal did not succeed in procuring the document for his records, and the five pages which he kept for it have remained blank ever since. But the Petition has not been left unpublished. It was authentically given to the world in 1845 by Lord Mahon (Earl Stanhope) in the fourth volume of his edition of the Chesterfield Letters, whence it was copied by Admiral Smyth in his "Sketch of the Rise and Progress of the Royal Society Club."¹ As it made such a sensation in the Club, and as this narrative would be incomplete without it, the text is here given.

TO THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

The humble Petition of Philip, Earl of Chesterfield, Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter,

Sheweth

That your Petitioner, being rendered, by deafness, as useless and insignificant, as most of his equals and contemporaries are by nature, hopes, in common with them, to share your Majesty's Royal favour and bounty; whereby he may be enabled either to save or spend, as he shall think proper, more than he can do at present.

That your Petitioner, having had the honour of serving your Majesty in several very lucrative employments, seems thereby entitled to a lucrative retreat from business, and to enjoy *otium cum dignitate*; that is, leisure and a large pension.

Your Petitioner humbly presumes, that he has, at least, a common claim to such a pension; he has a vote in the most august assembly in the world; he has an estate that puts him above wanting it; but he has, at the same time (though he says it), an elevation of sentiment, that makes him not only desire, but (pardon, dread Sir, an expression you are used to) *insist* upon it.

That your Petitioner is little apt, and always unwilling, to speak advantageously of himself, but as, after all, some justice is due to one's self, as well as to others, he begs leave to represent: That his loyalty to your Majesty has always been unshaken, even in the worst of times; That, particularly, in the late unnatural rebellion, when the Pretender advanced as far as Derby, at the head of, at least, three thousand undisciplined men, the flower of the Scottish nobility and gentry, your Petitioner did not join him, as, unquestionably, he might have done, had he been so inclined; but on the contrary, raised sixteen companies of one hundred men each at the public expense, in support of your Majesty's undoubted right

¹ But an abbreviated form of it had appeared in the *Annual Register* for 1774, p. 215.

to the Imperial Crown of these Realms ; which distinguished proof of his loyalty is, to this hour, unrewarded.¹

Your Majesty's Petitioner is well aware, that your Civil List must necessarily be in a low and languid state, after the various, frequent, and profuse evacuations which it has of late years undergone ; but, at the same time, he presumes to hope, that this argument, which seems not to have been made use of against any other person whatsoever, shall not, in this single case, be urged against him ; and the less so, as he has good reasons to believe, that the deficiencies of the Pension-fund are, by no means, the last that will be made good by Parliament.

Your Petitioner begs leave to observe, That a small pension is disgraceful and opprobrious, as it intimates a shameful necessity on the one part, and a degrading sort of charity on the other ; but that a great one implies dignity and affluence on one side ; on the other, regard and esteem ; which, doubtless, your Majesty must entertain in the highest degree, for those great personages whose respectable names stand upon your Eleemosynary list. Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly persuades himself, upon this principle, that less than three thousand pounds a-year will not be proposed to him ; if made up of gold, the more agreeable ; if for life, the more marketable.

Your Petitioner persuades himself, that your Majesty will not suspect this his humble application to proceed from any mean, interested motive, of which he has always had the utmost abhorrence. No, Sir, he confesses his own weakness ; Honour alone is his object ; Honour is his passion ; Honour is dearer to him than life. To Honour he has always sacrificed all other considerations ; and upon this general principle, singly, he now solicits that honour, which in the most shining times distinguished the greatest men of Greece, who were fed at the expense of the public.

Upon this Honour, so sacred to him as a Peer, so tender to him as a man, he most solemnly assures your Majesty, that, in case you shall be pleased to grant him this his humble request, he will gratefully and honourably support, and promote with zeal and vigour, the worst measure that the worst Minister can ever suggest to your Majesty : but, on the other hand, should he be singled out,

¹ " A satirical allusion to the conduct at that period of the Dukes of Bedford, Bolton and Montagu, Lords Harcourt, Halifax and many other Peers. Horace Walpole gives the following account of it in a note to Sir C. H. Williams's ballad *The Heroes*—' In the time of the Rebellion these Lords had proposed to raise regiments of their own dependents, and were allowed : had they paid them too, the service had been noble ; being paid by Government obscured a little the merit ; being paid without raising them would deserve too coarse a term. It is certain that not six regiments ever were raised, not four of which were employed.' " *Note by Lord Mahon.*

marked, and branded by a refusal, he thinks himself obliged in Honour to declare, that he will, to the utmost of his power, oppose the best and wisest measures that your Majesty yourself can ever dictate.

And your Majesty's Petitioner will ever pray &c.

1758. The Annual General Meeting for 1758 was held on July 27th, and was attended by twenty members, James Burrow in the Chair. The Treasurer stated that the expenses connected with venison and salmon had amounted to £1 7s., and that the Fund had paid £6 11s. 8d. for deficiencies in the attendance of members, while there remained in his hands a balance of £2 16s. 1d.

It was further announced that George Bell had died since the last Anniversary and that Welbore Ellis, elected at that Anniversary, was believed to be out of England, as he had never attended nor paid his admission fee. It was decided by a majority that his election was void, and a further resolution was adopted that members who propose candidates must inform them when they are elected.

To fill the two vacancies thus caused John Hyde (F.R.S. 1752) and Samuel Dyer were elected. The latter was not at that time a Fellow of the Royal Society, but was elected on March 6th 1760. He was a remarkably able man of letters and an esteemed friend of Samuel Johnson, who had the greatest respect for his scholarship. He was the first addition to Johnson's Literary Club, after the original nine, and, as Johnson boasted, was in constant attendance there. Dyer was described by Edmund Burke as "a man of profound and general erudition."¹ He had dined frequently with the Royal Philosophers before they made him a member of their fraternity and he continued faithful in his adherence. The last dinner he attended was held on July 9th 1772, and he died on September 14th of that year.

¹ Boswell's *Life of Johnson* (Birkbeck Hill's Edition), iv. p. 111 note. Sir Joshua Reynolds and Malone both believed him to have been the author of the "Letters" of Junius.

One of the first entries in the Treasurer's Register for this year (23rd January 1758) is as follows :

" At an extra Mitre held in commemoration of the Club's having met here weekly for fourteen years past : Present, Earl of Macclesfield, President ; Earl of Morton, Lord Willoughby, Lord Charles Cavendish, Mr. Burrow [the Treasurer and other nine members and three guests].

Veale Soup.	Soup and Bouille.
Fresh Salmon and smelts.	Cod and Smelts.
2 dishes of Chickens.	Ham.
Boiled Turkey & oyes ^{trs}	Rump of Beef,
Lamb pye with Cocks-combs	aladobe [à la daube].
&c.	
Haunch of Venison.	

RIDERS.

2 dishes fruit.	2 jellys and syllabubs.
2 Almond leach and Olives.	

2D COURSE.

2 dishes Teale and Larks.	Tansie.
Pear pye Creamed.	Lobsters.
Hare.	Marrow pudding
2 dishes Asparagus and loaves.	

The Company were this day entertained with the above dinner by Mr. Cole at 5/ per head eating, and drank to the prosperity and continuance of the Society in claret."

The visitors this year again several times included Benjamin Franklin. In connection with the history of the Club the most notable of the strangers now introduced to the company was the Honourable Henry Cavendish, then a youth of seven and twenty, who appeared for the first time at the dinner on June 15th. The party numbered seventeen members and twelve visitors. Among the members were Lord Macclesfield, Lord Charles Cavendish, Dr. Pringle, Dr. Birch, Dr. Gowin Knight, Dr. Watson, and Mr. Burrow, while the guests included Dr. Bradley, Mr. Dyer, and Henry Cavendish. It may be added that on each of the four occasions when the younger Cavendish dined this year with the Club his father was also present.

: 1759. On July 26, 1759, the Annual General Meeting was attended by thirteen members, James Burrow being in the Chair. The Treasurer reported that the expenses had been £3 7s. 6d., leaving in his hands a balance of £2 5s. 1d.

Two vacancies were announced owing to the death of Dr. Clephane and Arthur Pond, and a third arose from the non-attendance of William Tempest. These places were filled by ballot, and the Rev. Erasmus Saunders, D.D., the Rev. John Ross, D.D., and the Earl of Marchmont were elected. Dr. Saunders was a divine of Jesus College, Oxford, and prebendary of St. David's, who had been elected into the Royal Society in 1759. Dr. Ross, of St. John's College, Cambridge, after holding various preferments, became Bishop of Exeter in 1778. He was made F.R.S. in 1758. The Earl of Marchmont, who has already been mentioned in these pages as a frequent visitor and a donor of salmon to the Club, was now chosen to be one of its members.

The war with France, waged on land in North America, and at sea in various regions, from 1755 to 1763, cut off all intercourse of a friendly kind between the natives of the two countries, and its effects are marked in the annals of the Royal Philosophers by the general absence of foreign guests from their dinners during this interval. Among the English guests the name of the Earl of Huntingdon occurs this year more than once. It was of him that Lord Chesterfield wrote that next to his own son, he was "the truest object of my affection and esteem and who (I am proud to say it) calls me and considers me as his adopted father. His parts are as quick as his knowledge is extensive."¹ In later years he was a frequent visitor, sometimes contributing venison to the good cheer of the Club. Another peer among the visitors was the Earl of Rosebery of that day, whose name is found in the Register under that of Lord Willoughby on 5th April. Lord Charles Cavendish dined twice with the Club and on each occasion his son Henry accompanied him. Benjamin Franklin likewise continued to appear at intervals among the philosophers.

¹ *Chesterfield Letters* (Lord Mahon's Edit. 1845), vol. ii. p. 38.

1760. The Annual General Meeting held on July 31st 1760 was attended by the following members :

James Burrow, in the Chair.

Samuel Clarke	Dr. William Watson
Dr. Gowin Knight	Philip Miller
Dr. Nich. Munckley	Daniel Wray
Rev. Dr. Birch	Rev. J. Cooksey
Peter Davall	Dr. Mark Akenside
William Hall	J. Colebrooke. Treasurer.

Revd. Dr. Bradley, and Dr. Alexander Russell, visitors.

The Treasurer stated that the ordinary expenses had amounted to £1 14s. and that £3 11s. had been paid for deficiencies in attendance, leaving a balance of £8 4s. 9d. His register of the dinners shows that the total number of those who had dined since the last Anniversary was 682, of whom 533 were members and 149 visitors.

It was announced that since the last Anniversary Isaac Hawkins Browne, Paul Whichcote and Charles Stanhope had died, and further, that Dr. John Kidby wished to resign his membership. Three new members were thereupon elected by ballot :—Samuel Wegg, who became F.R.S. in 1753, Matthew Raper, F.R.S. in 1754, and the Honourable Henry Cavendish, who had been elected into the Royal Society on 1st May preceding.

At the same meeting it was determined that henceforth the occurrence of three negatives should exclude anyone put to the ballot.

As the election of Henry Cavendish was one of the most memorable incidents in the history of the Club, some account of this remarkable personage may be appropriately given in this place. Grandson of the second Duke of Devonshire and son of Lord Charles Cavendish, an active member of the Club, he would in any case have been sure of a friendly welcome from the other members, but he was known to share his father's scientific pursuits, and gave promise that he would make his mark in any lines of investigation which he might undertake. Few however could at this time have surmised that the shy, reserved and modest new-comer among the

philosophers would, ere many years had passed, be recognised as one of the master-minds in physical and chemical science.

Cavendish in his mature years must have presented a strikingly picturesque figure as he moved through the streets of London and took his place under the roof of the Mitre Tavern. From the narratives left by his contemporaries it is possible to form some conception of his appearance and manner. Persistently retaining throughout his life the costume of a bygone generation, he at once arrested the attention of the passers-by. His slim body was wrapped in a greyish-green or faded violet coat that rose high round his neck and allowed his frilled shirt-wrists to project from its sleeves. A quaint three-cornered cocked-hat crowned his head. This garb remained the same from year to year, no matter what changes might be transpiring in the fashions of the society of the day. He is said to have calculated "the advent of his tailor to make a new suit of clothes, as he would have done that of a comet, and consulted the almanac to discover when the artist should appear." He had a shrill and somewhat disagreeable voice, a shy, nervous and awkward manner, a remarkable dislike to encounter strangers and a habit of silence in company, save when the conversation specially interested him, and then his range of knowledge and depth of thought would flash a fresh light on the subject that was being discussed.

For the first half of his life he lived on limited resources, during the last half he was one of the wealthiest men in England. Yet the change from comparative poverty to affluence made little or no difference in his manner of living, which was extremely simple. Though he became constant in his attendance at the dinners of the Club he seldom invited anyone to his own house, whether at Clapham, where he had a pleasant abode in what was then largely open country, or in town near the British Museum, where he formed a good scientific library to which any serious student could have access. His biographer has recorded that Cavendish lived comfortably but made no display.



THE HON. HENRY CAVENDISH, F.R.S., 1760.

His few guests are said to have been treated on all occasions to the same fare, which was by no means sumptuous, being invariably a leg of mutton. Once when three or four scientific men were to dine with him, and his housekeeper came to ask what was to be got for dinner, he said, 'a leg of mutton!' 'Sir, that will not be enough for five.' 'Well, then, get two,' was the reply.¹

Cavendish's biographer remarks that "the most striking of his prominent peculiarities at a first glance, was a singular love of solitariness, and a reluctance to mix with his fellows, which I may perhaps best denote by saying that Cavendish was one of the most ungregarious of beings."² This judgment was undoubtedly founded on good evidence. Nevertheless the record of his relations with the Royal Society Club shows that it must not be accepted too absolutely. Proofs will be given in the following pages from the hitherto unpublished registers of the Club that for many years he was unquestionably the most constant and regular in his attendance of all the members who have ever belonged to the fraternity. To say that he dined with the Club every Thursday does not convey to the mind a full appreciation of the true measure of his assiduity, which can only be properly expressed in a numerical statement. At first he seems to have restricted himself to about two dinners in the month, but in the course of ten years his attendance rose by successive increments until it sometimes included every week in the year, for in his time the Club continued its meetings during the Royal Society's vacation and recesses.

From 1770 onwards to the end of his life, that is for some forty years, his record was never lower than 44 attendances in the year, and was usually about 50. In 1784, January began on a Thursday, the meeting day of the Club, and December ended on a Friday, thus giving in all 53 weekly gatherings and he was present at every one of them. In the slack months of the year, when most of the members of the Club were away on holiday, sometimes not more

¹ G. Wilson's *Life of Cavendish*, p. 164.

² *Ibid.* p. 165.

than two made their appearance at a meeting, but one of these was pretty sure to be Henry Cavendish.

In 1809, the last complete year of his life, he attended 51 times and in the succeeding January and February he was in his accustomed place every week until little more than a fortnight from his death, which took place on 10th March, 1810, in the seventy-ninth year of his age. It is thus obvious that he was but little away from London during the last forty years of his life, and that he must have had remarkably good health to be able to make his appearance so regularly, in spite of inclemencies of weather and the complaints which accompany them.

That he was the creature of habit was shown in many little ways, such as his always hanging his cocked hat on the same peg, and having his stick placed in one of his boots and always the same boot. But probably his relation to the Royal Society Club is the most signal illustration of this feature of his character. Brought at first by his father into the company of the philosophers he, naturally so shy and silent, soon got used to it, and he must have found a solace in it, seeing that for so many years he could not dispense with his weekly sitting at the Club. It was the custom among the members when a "clubbable" visitor appeared among them, that others than his first introducer invited him again and again, and this was done more particularly with regard to men who were proposed as candidates. Cavendish seems to have overcome his timidity and to have observed this custom by inviting prospective candidates whom he liked, though he may have had few interests in common with them. For the first twelve years he did this good-natured service somewhat sparingly, but from 1772 onwards he became more hospitably inclined. Thus in 1779 he had altogether 19 guests throughout the year, sometimes two at the same dinner. Most of them were no doubt candidates, but some were probably invited by him as more especially his own friends. There can be little doubt, for example, that the Rev. John Michell, who from 1767 was from time to time his guest, and who was not a

candidate for admission into the Club, was asked by Cavendish as one whose friendship he valued and with whose scientific studies he had the warmest sympathy. But as time passed, his zeal for hospitality to outsiders dwindled until for five or six years in succession he ceased to invite any visitor. In the years 1800 to 1802 there was a slight revival. He appears to have taken a special interest in the election of Charles Hatchett, whom he asked to dine at the Club no fewer than six times in those three years, and he had the ultimate satisfaction of welcoming that Candidate as a member.

The details of Cavendish's life have been most imperfectly preserved. It is fitting, therefore, that any fresh particulars regarding him which can be recovered should be put on record. One cannot but look back with profound interest on the pathetic figure of the great philosopher who sought in the meetings of this Club a relaxation from his studies and a relief from the solitude in which most of his days were spent. Shrinking from contact with general society, seemingly so indifferent to the plaudits of his contemporaries, and so careless about his own fame in the future, he found in these meetings some at least of that human interest and sympathy of which he stood so much in need. All members of the Royal Society Club are proud of his connection with their fraternity, and they may well remember with gratitude the unremitting attention which for half a century Henry Cavendish gave to its affairs and prosperity.

After this long digression let us return to the record of the Club during the year 1760. The list of guests includes a few well-known names. On 3rd April the entry occurs "Mr. Sterne, author of *Tristram Shandy*." The registers up to and beyond this date do not state by whose invitation each visitor was present. From the position of the names of Dr. Watson and Dr. Squire opposite to that of Sterne in the dinner-register it may be conjectured that one or other of these gentlemen had the pleasure of introducing the illustrious creator of "*My Uncle Toby*" to the table of the Royal Philosophers.

Sir Thomas Robinson, or "Long Sir Thomas," as he was familiarly called, dined with the Club on 12th June. He had in his youth travelled in Europe and devoted much of his attention to architecture, which became a dominant taste all through his life. In 1727, when under thirty, he had entered parliament as member for Morpeth. He was created a baronet three years later, and thereafter became a commissioner of excise. He indulged his tastes and diminished his fortune by extravagance in entertainments in London and in enclosing and laying out his estate of Rokeby, which he left in the state in which Walter Scott found and described it. His finances were so reduced that he was glad to accept the colonial appointment of Governor of Barbados. But his management of the colony made him so unpopular that after a few years he was recalled in 1747. He had acquired shares in Ranelagh Gardens, and after his return to London he became director of the entertainments at that fashionable resort. His financial difficulties compelled him in 1769 to part with Rokeby, which then became the property of the Morritts, with whom Scott was on terms of such intimate friendship. "Long Sir Thomas" was so remarkably tall that when he asked Lord Chesterfield for an epigram that witty peer could not resist the temptation to allude to this personal feature when he complied with the request in the following couplet :

Unlike my subject I will make my song,
It shall be witty, and it shan't be long.

Nor could the same wit refrain in his last illness from saying to his tall friend, "Ah, Sir Thomas, it will be sooner over with me than it would be with you, for I am dying by inches."¹ Sir Thomas became blind in his old age and died in 1777.

Another of the Club's guests this year was Lord Auchinleck, the father of James Boswell, who in his biography of Samuel Johnson has given so good a sketch of him and so many incidents that reveal his idiosyncrasies. He was

¹ Croker quoted in Birkbeck Hill's Edit. of *Boswell's Life of Johnson*, i. 434.

upwards of fifty years of age when he dined with the Philosophers. Like not a few Scottish students of the time, he had taken his degree at Leyden, practised with success at the Scottish bar, and in 1754 had been raised to the bench, where, after the custom of the country, he took his legal title from his Ayrshire estate of Auchinleck.

On 3rd July of this year a remarkable galaxy of leaders in physical science appeared at the Club's table. It included the veteran Dr. Bradley, Henry Cavendish, who appeared then for the last time as a guest, and Nevil Maskelyne. The last-named illustrious man in a few years from this time was appointed Astronomer Royal, and in that capacity became *ex officio* a member of the Club. During these intermediate years he dined frequently with the Royal Philosophers as an honoured visitor. By no means least eminent of the men of science who dined at the Club's table this year was one already mentioned who had been an occasional guest for some years, the Rev. John Michell—a modest and retiring student of science, but gifted with no common faculty of original observation and reflection. He was elected into the Royal Society on June 12th this year, and his name on the Society's roll of membership occurs immediately below that of Henry Cavendish. These men were to become friends and fellow-workers in research in after years, and some particulars concerning the less known of the two will be given in a later chapter.

The only foreign guest of note recorded as a visitor this year was Father Boscovich (1711-1787), an Italian mathematician and astronomer who entered the order of Jesuits and taught in Rome, Milan and Pavia. He travelled over Europe and came to London, where the Royal Society engaged him to go to California to observe the transit of Venus, but the expulsion of the Jesuits from Spain prevented the mission. The Padre attained such a high reputation that a kind of rivalry arose among the crowned heads of Europe in their efforts to secure his services. He finally accepted the offer of Louis XVI. to settle in Paris, where he was placed at the head of the *Optique de la Marine*. When

he was in England he had a discussion in Latin with Samuel Johnson, who maintained "the superiority of Sir Isaac Newton over all foreign philosophers, with a dignity and eloquence that surprised that learned foreigner."¹ He dined with the Club on 5th and 26th June and again on 11th December.

1761. This year seems to have been uneventful in the Annals of the Club. The Annual General Meeting on July 30th was attended by only eleven members, one of whom was Cavendish, and the Chair was taken by Peter Davall. No vacancies were reported either from death or from non-attendance. The Treasurer intimated that the expenses connected with gifts of venison, salmon and beef were £2 4s., and that the deficiencies which had to be made good for absentees at dinner amounted to £6 11s. He further stated that the balance in his hands (£3 8s.) was insufficient for the outlays of the ensuing year. It was accordingly agreed that each member should pay five shillings to the Treasurer for the supply of the Fund.

The customary presents of venison continued to arrive during the year, but there is no mention of turtles in the register. The Earl of Marchmont, however, did not fail to supply his preserved salmon, sometimes "pickled after the manner they pickle it to send to the East Indies." The fish course in the weekly dinner now frequently included one or more Cod's heads and the Treasurer specially notes of one of these that it was "large and good." He also chronicles in his characteristic way that on April 16th "the company were entertained with a mighty Chine of Beef and 2 brace of large Carp by Mr. Hanbury, and drank his health in claret." He has, however, omitted to give the measurement and weight of this joint. The next week, Thursday "being St. George's Day, the Society of Antiquaries dined in this room and Mr. Cole through mistake did not provide a Dinner for the Club, of which only four met."

Few guests of note are this year recorded as having been present at the dinners. One of them, John Smeaton, the

¹ *Boswell's Life of Johnson* (Birkbeck Hill's Edit.), ii. 125.

famous engineer, then in the prime of his vigour, was a few years afterwards elected a member of the Club.

Governor Henry Ellis, who dined on June 11th, had made his reputation by taking part, as hydrographer, surveyor and mineralogist, in an expedition sent out in 1746 to search for a north-west passage. The expedition definitely ascertained that no such passage existed from Hudson's Bay. For his share in the work he was elected into the Royal Society in 1749. In later years he received the appointment of Governor of Georgia and thereafter of Nova Scotia. He died at Naples in 1806.

1762. The Annual General Meeting on 29th July was again thinly attended, there being only fourteen members present. James Burrow presided. The death was announced of Sir James Creed and James Postlethwaite. Three members desired to resign their places in the Club—Samuel Dyer on account of his absence abroad on public service, Dr. Feake by reason of his feeble health, and the Bishop of St. David's (Dr. Samuel Squire), because of the many claims of his See, while other three members, Dr. Akenside, Robert More and Taylor White had not attended any meeting during the previous twelve months. The Club resolved to declare six places vacant, Samuel Dyer, Dr. Feake and the Bishop being retained as members. As the result of a ballot there were elected, Dr. Alexander Russell, John Hadley, M.D., Rev. Lewis Crusius, D.D., Rev. Samuel Chandler, D.D., Earl Verney and Dr. Jean Louis Petit.

The Treasurer stated that the expenses had amounted to £6 18s., of which £6 5s. 6d. were owing to payments for deficiencies in dinner attendances.

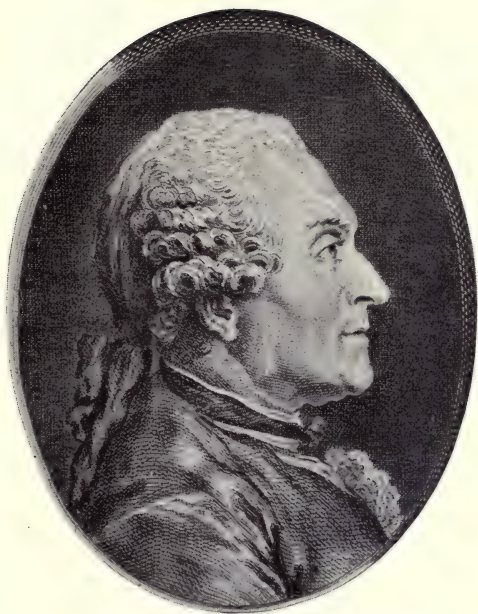
A few biographical facts may be given here about the new members. Dr. Russell, after completing his medical education at Edinburgh and Glasgow, went to Aleppo in 1740 as physician to an English factory, and there learnt to speak Arabic, which gave him much influence with the native population. He published in 1756 a volume on the Natural History of Aleppo—a work of great merit. The same year he was elected F.R.S. He did not long enjoy

his membership of the Club, for he died in 1768. Dr. Hadley was Professor of Chemistry at Cambridge, and Fellow of Queen's College. He became F.R.S. in 1758. Dr. Crusius, who had frequently been a guest of the Club, was headmaster of Charterhouse School. He was elected F.R.S. in 1754. Dr. Chandler was a nonconformist clergyman who had written theological pamphlets and sermons. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1754. Earl Verney had been elected into the Royal Society in 1758 and had often dined with the Club as a visitor. J. L. Petit belonged to the medical profession and had been elected into the Royal Society in 1729.

As already referred to (p. 74), it would seem from the weekly dinner-registers to have been a common practice among the members of the Club to invite to the dinners candidates for admission into the Royal Society. The approval and comradeship of the members would no doubt be useful in promoting the success of their candidature. And it would appear to have been also customary for different members in succession to invite a candidate for admission into the Club during many months previous to the election day, as if to test his "clubbability" before adopting him as a member.

It is interesting to notice in these registers the evidence that Henry Cavendish was gradually throwing off his timidity in the Club. In the first year after his election he attended sixteen times. In this, the second year, he was present at twenty-eight dinners and at two of these the names of his father and him are placed together on the register.

Few guests of distinction dined with the Club this year. It is deserving of note that Nathaniel Bliss, the Savilian Professor of Geometry at Oxford, who was not an infrequent guest during the summer, was this year appointed successor to Bradley at the Royal Observatory. His tenure of this office, however, proved brief, for he died in 1764. It should be mentioned that the two visitors at the Anniversary Meeting of the Club this year were the new Astronomer Royal and the eminent astronomer who was so soon to succeed



CHARLES-MARIE DE LA CONDAMINE.

For. Memb. R.S., 1748.

him in that high appointment. They are recorded by Josiah Colebrooke as "Mr. Professor Bliss" and "Mr. Mascaline."

1763. The Annual General Meeting was held on July 25th, and was attended by fifteen members, with James Burrow in the Chair. The Treasurer's statement showed that the expenses amounted to £6 10s., of which £5 os. 6d. was due to deficiencies in the dinner attendance.

The death of Dr. Charles Feake and Peter Davall was announced. The two vacancies thus caused were filled up by the election of Samuel Mead (F.R.S. 1738) and Israel Wilkes (F.R.S. 1760).

On the 10th February 1763 the Peace of Paris between Britain, France and Spain was signed, and peaceful intercourse was once more resumed with our neighbours on the opposite side of the Channel. The event, though not alluded to in the Dinner-register or in the Minute-book, is clearly indicated by the appearance of an unwonted number of foreigners as visitors to the Club. After the misfortunes of the Seven Years' War, France sent as its Ambassador Extraordinary to London Louis Jules, Duc de Nivernais, to negotiate the conditions of peace.¹ It is interesting to find that he was made a Fellow of the Royal Society and also dined with the Club on the very day when the final treaty of peace was signed. This eminent nobleman was born in 1716 so that he came to London in the full vigour of manhood. He married when only fifteen, and in an age and country where marital relations were somewhat loosely held, he proved a model of conjugal affection. He had been French Ambassador at Rome, where his influence prevented the condemnation of Montesquieu's "Esprit des Lois" by the authorities of the Index. Lord Chesterfield, writing on 6th July 1749 to his son, who was then in Rome, urged him to cultivate the acquaintance of the Duke. "He is in my opinion," said the Earl, "one of the prettiest men I ever knew in my life. I do not know a better model for you to form yourself upon; pray observe and frequent him as

¹ He presented his credentials in London on 24th November 1762.

much as you can. He will show you what manners and graces are.”¹ Horace Walpole, who saw a good deal of the Duke when he was in England, and received much kindness from him afterwards in Paris, describes him as “thin and small,” “with one wrinkle more than I have.”²

Among the members of the Club whom the Duke met at the Club dinner were the Earl of Macclesfield, who presided, the Earl of Morton, the Earl of Marchmont, Earl Verney, Lord Willoughby, Lord Lyttelton, Henry Cavendish, Dr. Watson, James West, the Bishop of St. Davids, Dr. Birch and a few more.

A month later (March 17) the Royal Philosophers entertained another company of notable foreigners. Chief among them was Sigr.or Lorenzo Morosini, the Ambassador Extraordinary from Venice, who had been elected into the Royal Society the week before. There were present also Count Simone Stratico, who was also made F.R.S. at the beginning of the following year, and Joseph Jérôme le Français de Lalande. The latter, a noted astronomer of the day, made his name widely known by his researches on comets, and particularly that of Halley, and subsequently by the construction of an ingenious astronomical chart on which the precise time of the transits of Venus in 1761 and 1769 were shown for all countries on the globe. His cleverness in promptly publishing the results of observations made throughout the world, which his extensive correspondence enabled him to generalise, added much to his popularity. He was elected into the Royal Society on 24th November this year. He returned to England in 1788 and again dined with the Club.

The English visitors at this feast included Maskelyne, Mr. (afterwards Sir James) Porter, the Bishop of Carlisle and seven others. In honour of the assemblage Josiah Colebrooke ordered a more voluminous dinner than usual, and has recorded that “the eating was 2/6 each, and they drank claret.” It may be of interest to present, as the

¹ *Chesterfield Letters*, I. p. 286.

² *Walpole's Letters*, Mrs. Toynbee's Edit. vol. v. pp. 259, 330.

Treasurer records it, the bill of fare for this repast as a sample of an English *menu* of the time.

Cod's head and whittings	Fresh Salmon
2 dishes boiled Fowles	A Ham
Tongue and Udder	Calves head hashed
Turkey Roast	Chump of Beef
Fricasie of Lamb	2 dishes Hot Lobsters
Coast of Lamb and mint	2 dishes Minced pyes
2 boiled puddings	2 apple pyes
Marrow pudding	Butter and Cheese

At an earlier dinner one of the guests included in the foregoing list of visitors is briefly termed by the Treasurer "Mr. Porter, Emb." As the contraction after the name was the way in which Colebrooke wrote "Ambassador," there can be little doubt that the person in question was Sir James Porter, who had been our Ambassador at Constantinople from 1748 to 1762, and was now on his way to take up the post of Minister Plenipotentiary at Brussels. It was while in London at this time that he received the honour of knighthood. He had become F.R.S. in 1749.

During the summer of this year, when French men of science, whom the Peace now allowed to visit this country, began to arrive in London, an eminent group of them dined with the Club on May 12th. One of these philosophers, Charles-Marie De La Condamine, had many years before this time gained a world-wide reputation as a mathematician and a cultivated traveller. During his journeys he had explored the Mediterranean coasts of Asia and Africa, and was the author of important observations on the attraction of mountains on the pendulum in South America. As far back as 1748 he had been made F.R.S. He dined four times with the Club during the months of May and June of 1763. Horace Walpole gives a thumb-nail sketch of him as he appeared on the streets of London: "We have got another curious Frenchman—La Condamine *qui se donne pour philosophe*. He walks about the streets with his trumpet and a map, his spectacles on, and hat under his arm. To tell you the truth he is absurdity itself." ¹

¹ *Letters*, June 5 and 30, 1763, vol. v. pp. 340, 344.

His deafness, perhaps his most outstanding peculiarity, was of old standing. When in 1760 he was received by Buffon into the Académie Française (and he was one of the first members of the Academy of Sciences to attain that honour) the following epigram was made about him :

La Condamine est aujourd'hui
Reçu dans la troupe immortelle ;
Il est bien sourd ; tant mieux pour lui,
Mais non muet ; tant pis pour elle.

While he remained in London M. De La Condamine unfortunately made himself notorious by publishing in the newspapers an appeal to the English Nation of which the first paragraph ran as follows :

“ M. de La Condamine, Knight of St. Lazare, one of the forty of the French Academy, member of almost all the Academies of Europe, particularly of the Royal Society of London, lately arrived in London, took a lodging at a milliner's, the sign of the *Golden Angel*. He had lived in this house for about eight days, when on Friday the 26th instant, returning home at nine o'clock in the evening, he perceived he was followed by two men, shabbily drest, one of which was armed with a stick. They both entered his chamber and seized him, at the same time presenting him with a paper, and threatening by word and gesture, making a sign for him to follow them.”

He goes on to narrate that he had taken the opinion of counsel as to what he should do, and to his surprise was informed that he could hope for no justice or satisfaction, and that the best thing he could do was to keep silence. So he makes this appeal to the English public to know if it is agreeable to the laws, in which they glory, that a stranger should be exposed to an insult such as he had never suffered amongst the many barbarous countries through which he had travelled.

An answer to this appeal promptly appeared in the newspapers. It averred that the two men of whom he complained, and whose language and errand he, in his deafness and ignorance of English, obviously did not understand, were legally engaged in serving on him a writ granted by Mr. Justice Garnon upon a deposition on oath by one of the

servants at his lodgings whom he had assaulted and who went about in bodily fear of him. Therefore the counsel to whom he had applied very properly advised him to make no further stir in the matter.¹

Charles Étienne Louis Camus, another French mathematician and astronomer who was one of the party on May 12th, was entertained thrice by the Club during this summer. He and his companions at the dinners, Charles Duclos and Ferdinand Berthoud, were elected into the Royal Society at the beginning of the following year.

The Dinner-register contains no record of changes in the Regulations or demands for further supply. There are indications, however, that while the bill of fare still continued to display mainly the solid and thoroughly English dishes which had distinguished it from the first start of the Club, traces of French influence in the cuisine begin to be more distinctly perceptible. This may perhaps have arisen out of compliment to the foreign and especially the French guests. The Treasurer, however, gets rather mixed between the two languages in drawing up his *menu*. He compensates this yielding to foreign taste by having next year his favourite "plumb-pudding" at no less than forty-four dinners out of the normal fifty-two.

¹ The appeal and the answer to it will be found in full in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, xxxiii. p. 305. It is given also in the *Annual Register* (1763, p. 166), with an editorial comment in reference to the recently liberated French prisoners, that "thirty thousand of M. De La Condamine's countrymen are gone home to refute the charge of barbarism against us."

CHAPTER IV

PRESIDENTSHIPS OF THE EARL OF MORTON, 1764-1768, AND JAMES WEST, 1768-1772

1764. THIS year was somewhat more eventful in the history of the Club than the immediately preceding years had been. The President, the Earl of Macclesfield, failing in health during the latter half of 1763, had not attended any dinner of the Club after the 28th of April of that year. His place in the Chair was supplied by Lord Willoughby or by Mr. Burrow, sometimes by Dr. Watson, who was also one of the original group of members in 1743. The Earl died on 17th March of this year after having filled the office of President with genial efficiency for more than twelve years. The Earl of Morton was chosen to succeed him at the Society, and likewise at the Club. Treasurer Colebrooke's entry in his Dinner-Register under date April 5th is as follows :

“ The Earl of Morton having been elected President of the Royal Society was this day elected a member of this Club in the room of the Earl of Macclesfield, and attending, paid his Admission Fee £1 1/.”

The Treasurer and the Club somewhat anticipated the choice of the Royal Society, for the Earl of Morton was not formally elected President by the Society as a body until the 30th November following. James Douglas, fourteenth Earl of Morton [1702-1768], was M.A. of King's College, Cambridge. As a representative peer of Scotland he had a seat in Parliament, and the administration of his large estates in Scotland occupied much of his time. He

had a strong bias for scientific pursuits, especially in astronomy, and was the friend and associate of the scientific men of the day in Scotland. With them he took a large part in the foundation of the Philosophical (afterwards the Royal) Society of Edinburgh. He held the position of one of the Commissioners of Longitude, and largely assisted in the preparations for observing the transit of Venus in 1769. He was one of the first Trustees of the British Museum and was also Keeper of the Records of Scotland. He had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society when he was Lord Aberdour, as far back as 1733, and he contributed papers, chiefly astronomical, to the *Philosophical Transactions*. On the death of the Earl of Macclesfield, the Earl of Morton was chosen to succeed him as one of the eight foreign members of the Academy of Sciences in Paris. The new President having been a frequent guest of the Club in the past, was on terms of pleasant intimacy with the members.

At the Annual General Meeting held on July 26th, when twelve members and two visitors attended, and the Earl of Morton presided, the Treasurer reported that his expenses had amounted to £9 3s. 10d., of which £4 13s. arose from deficiencies at dinner, and that the balance remaining in his hands was £3 14s. The only death among the members during the past year was that of the Earl of Macclesfield, whose place in the Club had been immediately filled up by the election of the Earl of Morton. It was then resolved "in consideration of the dearness of Provisions and the Good dinners Mr. Cox gives the Company, that 6d. per head be added to the Reckoning on account of wine, but that deficiencies should pay 1/6 as usual."

During the autumn months of this year the weekly dinner went on as usual, but the attendance was sometimes so small as to make a serious demand on the Fund. Thus on 30th August the faithful Treasurer was supported by only four other members, and he had consequently to pay 10s. 6d. for the seven absentees. This falling-off in the attendance continued into October; on the 18th of that month the Treasurer had only three companions and one of them was a visitor,

so that his dwindling resources were further mulcted in 12s. Hence at the next meeting he was compelled to send the hat round once more, and the Club then ordered that 5s. be collected from each member.

The guests of the Club this year included some notable men. In the month of March two foreigners of very different characteristics appeared at its table. Louis Marie Joseph d'Albert d'Ailly, Duc de Picquigny (afterwards Duc de Chaulnes), a young French nobleman, had come to London, but slanderous tongues had apparently preceded him, for Horace Walpole, always on the outlook for social gossip, describes the alarm of a lady who saw this duke enter her assembly, and how she forbade her daughter to speak to "such a debauched young man." He was then 23 years of age and in the army, which he soon quitted in order to devote himself to scientific studies. The Royal Society elected him into their body on the 15th of this month and the Royal Philosophers entertained him twice at dinner. Further reference to his honourable and useful career will be found again in the record of the Club for 1783.

The other foreign guest was Claud Adrian Helvetius, the famous philosopher whose work *De l'Esprit*, published in 1758, had created so much sensation as to be translated into most European languages. In France it aroused such widespread opposition that it was ordered by the Parliament of Paris to be publicly burnt. The advent of this friend of Voltaire to London was thus chronicled by Horace Walpole: "Helvetius, whose book has drawn such persecution on him, and the persecution such fame, is coming to settle here, and brings two Miss Helvetiuses, with fifty thousand pounds apiece, to bestow on two immaculate members of our most august and incorruptible senate, if he can find two in this virtuous age who will condescend to accept his money."¹ The persecuted French philosopher arrived in London, as Walpole duly records, on 12th March 1764. He probably called at the rooms of the Royal Society a few days thereafter, for he was invited to the Club dinner on the

¹ To Sir Horace Mann, 17th October 1763.



CLAUDE ADRIAN HELVETIUS, 1715-1771.

For. Memb. R.S., 1755.

29th of the month, when both the Duc de Picquigny and he attended. Walpole, though he disagreed with the philosophy of Helvetius, came to be on terms of friendly acquaintance with him, which was renewed and strengthened two years later in Paris when the English man of letters paid a visit to France.

Another notable Frenchman who dined with the Club on November 8th of this year was Jean Baptiste Jacques Élie de Beaumont, a barrister, and man of letters who made a great reputation as a forensic orator by his defence of Jean Calas, a Calvinist, executed on a false charge of murder. We get a vivid picture of him as a tourist in England from Horace Walpole, who, writing to the Earl of Hertford on 9th November 1764, says of him: "He breakfasted here [Strawberry Hill] t'other morning and pleased me exceedingly: he has great spirit and good humour. It is incredible what pains he has taken to *see*. He has *seen* Oxford, Bath, Blenheim, Stowe, Jews, Quakers, Mr. Pitt, the Royal Society, the Robin Hood [an oratorical club in Essex Street], Lord Chief-Justice Pratt, the Arts and Sciences, has dined at Wildman's [the Opposition club in Albemarle Street], and, I think, with my Lord Mayor, or is to do."

The personal appreciation of Élie de Beaumont on the part of the Fellows of the Royal Society was shown by their electing him into the Society on 25th April 1765. It is deserving of remark that seventy years later a second Élie de Beaumont, who had made an European reputation as a geologist, was similarly honoured.

Towards the end of the year two prominent foreigners were entertained by the Club. The Marchese Domenico Caraccioli, born in Naples (1715), became a diplomat and economist, and was successively Ambassador from Naples to Turin, to England and to France. In 1781 the government of Sicily was entrusted to him, a duty which he discharged with enlightened and upright firmness. It was said of him that though at first sight his features looked heavy, almost suggesting stupidity, yet no sooner did he begin to speak than his eyes grew animated, his face brightened and he

often displayed a vivid and luminous imagination. He enjoyed the friendship of D'Alembert, Diderot, Condorcet and other Encyclopedists. The Royal Society next year elected him a Fellow, and also the other foreign guest, Conte Giovanni Battista Carburis, who was one of the foremost physicians of his day, and taught for twenty years in the faculty of medicine at Turin. With the view of making the acquaintance of the most eminent men in his profession he visited France, Holland, England and Finland. Having acquired an European reputation he wished in 1770 to return to his native Cephalonia, when the King of Sardinia's daughter, who had married the Comte d'Artois, prevailed on him to accompany her to France as her physician, and Louis XVI. adopted him as physician to the whole royal family. He came to London and dined with the Club on the same evening with the Neapolitan Ambassador. Next spring he again appeared. Returning eventually to Italy he became Professor of Physiology at Padua, where he died in 1801.

Among the English visitors at the dinners may be mentioned the second Earl of Egmont, who, having sat first in the Irish and then in the British House of Commons, during a period of more than thirty years, had been raised to the peerage and was now first Lord of the Admiralty. His father had been a Fellow of the Royal Society, and he was elected to the same position on 21st June of this year and the week following dined with the Club. Another Fellow elected on 13th December and entertained by the Club next week was the fourth Lord Trevor, a Fellow of All Souls College, who had been minister at the Hague. It may be noted that Dr. Mark Akenside, who, as already mentioned, had for years been a frequent guest and then an assiduous member of the Club, but had been balloted out for non-attendance during twelve months, dined once again this year as a visitor.

1765. The Annual General Meeting of the Club was this year held on July 25th, when the following members were present :

James Burrow, in the Chair.

William Hall

Samuel Dyer

Dr. William Watson

Dr. Gowin Knight

John Ellicott

Dr. W. Heberden

Henry Cavendish

Dr. Nich. Munckley

Josiah Colebrooke, Treasurer

and James West, Henry Boulton and Dr. Baker, visitors.

It was reported by the Treasurer that the expenditure for the past year had amounted to £6 1s., whereof £4 17s. 6d. had been due to deficiencies in the attendance at dinner, and that the unexpended balance in his hands was £5 12s. 6d. The total attendance at the dinners since the last Anniversary was 673, composed of 473 members and 200 visitors.

It was announced that by the death of the veteran member Lord Willoughby of Parham, of Dr. Charlton Wollaston and of Dr. John Hadley, three vacancies had arisen. These were filled by the election of John Smeaton (F.R.S. 1753), George Eckersall (F.R.S. 1761) and Thomas Wood (F.R.S. 1761). All these new members had already been visitors to the Club. Smeaton's reputation as a great engineer was increasing every year. In 1759 he had completed his achievement of the erection of the Eddystone lighthouse—the most stupenduous work of the kind which up to that time had ever been erected in the midst of a stormy sea. Not only had his scientific merit been recognised by his election into the Royal Society, but the Society had bestowed its Copley Medal upon him in 1759. There were still many triumphs of engineering skill to be won by him in the years that were to come.

The names of no distinguished foreigners are to be found in the dinner lists for this year, except that of the Conte Carburis, who was entertained again by the Club on 18th April. His election into the Royal Society had taken place on the 21st of the preceding month. The most illustrious guest was Benjamin Franklin, who towards the end of 1764 had returned to England on his second mission to this country. He dined with the Club on 24th January this year.

There is now perceptible in the dinner-registers a more marked falling-off in the attendance of members during the months of August, September and October. Thus in the first of these months this year deficiencies are recorded in four out of five dinners. In September all the dinners had less than the twelve for whom commons were ordered. October began well, but the next four dinners fell short of the full company provided for. There was still, however, no diminution in the generous contributions to the *cuisine* of the Club. The Earl of Shaftesbury, the Hon. Philip Yorke (now Earl of Hardwicke), and Dr. Heberden continued their presents of venison, and Dr. Heberden and Dr. Watson contributed each a turtle, the Earl of Marchmont sent his salmon, and the President from his hot-houses supplied to successive dinners a dessert of pine-apples, grapes and pears. Nevertheless the general character of the *menu* remains, under the Treasurer's supervision, fundamentally of the same solid kind as at the beginning. There is perhaps a perceptibly increased appearance of vegetables, but the two courses of fish, the roast or boiled joints of beef, pork and lamb, still flourish, together with fowls and geese, sweetbreads, calves'-head and hashes of various kinds, and the seldom-failing "plumb-pudding." On one occasion a new sweet makes its appearance which the deipnosophistical Treasurer calls a "crocant of pears," and he explains, in a footnote to his record of the dinner, that "crocant is a tart or fruit pye with an open lid." [Croquante in French cookery.]

1766. The Annual General Meeting this year took place on July 31st, when there were present thirteen members, the Earl of Morton in the Chair.

The Treasurer stated that the expenses for the past year had been £6 6s. 6d., of which £5 5s. was required to pay for the deficiencies in attendance, leaving in his hands a balance of £2 14s. He intimated the death of the Rev. Dr. Birch (one of the small group of original members) and the Rev. Dr. Chandler. The two vacancies thus caused were filled by the election of Robert Burrow and Dr.

George Baker. Both these new Members had become Fellows of the Royal Society in 1762. Dr. Baker was a physician in London, who afterwards was appointed physician to the King and Queen and received a baronetcy.

In the Minutes of the General Meeting this year there would seem to be an indication of a recrudescence of the old trouble about the intrusion of strangers into the Club's meetings. Nothing is distinctly visible by way of explanation in the dinner-register,¹ but the General Meeting adopted the following new regulations :

" Ordered that no Strangers except such as are invited or introduced by the President be admitted without leave being obtained from the President, or, in his absence, from the majority of the Members present.

" That no Member ask for the introduction of more than two Strangers on any one day.

" That no Stranger be introduced into the Room till it be signified to him that leave hath been obtained for his Admission.

" That the Treasurer be desired to enter in his Book the name of each Stranger and that of the Member who introduced Him.

" That the Treasurer be desired to read aloud each day as soon after dinner as conveniently may be, the names of the Company present as entered in his Book.

" That these Resolutions be transcribed fair, and that a copy of them be hung up on the Outside of the door of the Room in which the Company meet every Thursday by halfe an Hour past two.

" That a list of the Members be delivered to the Serv^t who usually waits upon the Company.

" N.B. These resolutions were agreed to by Ballot. *nem. con.*

" Ordered that notwithstanding the number of Members is restrained to Forty, the President and the two Secretaries of the Royal Society (if not already of that Number) be additional Members during their continuance in their respective offices."

In accordance with the resolution that the two Secretaries of the Royal Society should be *ex officio* members of the Club, Charles Morton, M.D., and Matthew Maty, M.D., who were at this time the two Secretaries, were now added to the membership of the Club. Dr. Maty practised for some

¹ At some of the dinners in the earlier half of the year the proportion of strangers was exceptionally high. On April 10th, for example, there were five hosts and nine visitors. One or two Members may have been exceeding the legitimate number of guests whom they might invite.

years in London as a physician, but when the British Museum was organised he in 1753 received the appointment of under-librarian in that institution, of which he became in 1772 principal-librarian. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1751, was chosen Foreign Secretary in 1762 and one of the two secretaries in 1765. He died in 1776.

Dr. Morton's career was not unlike that of his colleague. He first practised as a physician in London, but in 1756 he was appointed under-librarian in the British Museum, and when Dr. Maty died he succeeded him as principal-librarian. He was elected into the Royal Society in January 1752, and became one of its secretaries in 1759. He continued to take an active interest in the Club for many years.

So far as relates to the detailed history of the Club, the most interesting feature in the new regulations adopted at this time is the provision that a record shall henceforth be kept not only of the name of each visitor but also that of the member by whom he was introduced. Up to this time the register affords no clue to the several hosts of the invited strangers. But henceforth, as each member would usually sit beside the person whom he had introduced, some indication is furnished of the grouping of the company at table, and in course of time it can be seen how friendships arose or were cultivated by the frequency wherewith a member invites the same outsider.

This year the Club welcomed a larger number of foreign guests than in any previous year in its history—French, Russian, Italian and Polish men of note. Reference may here be made to some of these visitors.

Louis George de Bréquigny, a French historian and antiquary, was sent over to England by his Government after the Peace of 1763 to examine documents, preserved among our records, bearing on the history of France. He passed three years here amid a chaos of papers "covered with a damp and malodorous dust."

Padre Paul Frisi, an Italian mathematician and physicist, had been appointed in 1755 Professor of Moral Philosophy and Metaphysics at Padua. He travelled in France, Eng-

land and Holland, establishing personal relations with the mathematicians in these countries. At the dinner of the Club (31st August) he was the guest of Dr. Maty.

Comte de Verri of Milan, economist and man of letters, was an associate of Frisi, with whom and other friends he got together a group of writers who began in 1764 to publish a journal called *Il Caffè*, consisting of essays after the model of those in Addison's *Spectator*. He made the acquaintance of Laurence Sterne and of Charles Fox. Finally he settled in Rome. On the occasion when he dined with the Club he was invited by Dr. Morton.

Comte Jean Maurice de Brühl had been sent by Stanislaus Augustus, formerly Count Poniatowski, now King of Poland, as Ambassador to Paris and afterwards to London. Fond of Astronomy, he improved some astronomical instruments. He became a favourite in London Society. Lord Chesterfield, writing to his son on 26th February 1865 said: "Count Brühl is much in fashion here; I like him mightily; he has very much *le ton de la bonne compagnie*"; and two years later he could report: "Count Brühl is either actually married or very soon to be so to Lady Egremont. . . . I am very glad of it, for he is a very pretty man." ¹

On October 2d a company of Russian notabilities were entertained by the Club. They included M. Mousin Puschkin, the Russian envoy, M. Schouwloff, Chamberlain to the late Empress of Russia, and Count Rasumowski, the President of the Imperial Academy of Sciences. The same dinner was attended by Benjamin Franklin, Henry Cavendish, Dr. Watson, Dr. Heberden, Dr. Maty, Samuel Dyer and others.

A month later Count Brühl again appeared on the invitation of the President, and there were also present Count Mneisnick senior, Count Mneisnick junior, M. Bertrand and M. Michefsky. Among the English visitors mention may

¹ *Chesterfield's Letters*, vol. iv. pp. 397, 453. The Earl showed his power of shrewd observation and inference, for a footnote to the passage above cited states that the widow of the Earl of Egremont married Count Brühl shortly after the date of his letter.

be made of Sir James Naesmith, Bart., who had some reputation as a botanist, having been a pupil of Linnaeus. He is said to have been among the first in Scotland to plant silver firs.

1767. The Annual General Meeting in 1767 was held on July 30th, when there were fourteen members present and the Earl of Morton was in the Chair. The Treasurer stated that the expenses had amounted to £4 17s. 6d., of which £4 10s. were due to deficiencies in the attendance, and a balance of only 10s. remained in his hands. An order was accordingly made for a contribution of 5s. from each member.

Two deaths had occurred during the past year—those of William Hall and Samuel Clarke. The former was one of the early members of the Club (August 3rd, 1749), who had never been elected into the Royal Society. The two vacancies thus caused were filled by the election of the Rev. Samuel Horsley and Dr. Wilkinson Blanchard. Dr. Horsley had been elected into the Royal Society in April of this year. He was a writer on mathematical and theological subjects. He became one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society in 1773. In later years, disagreeing with the President and others in the management of the Society, he resigned his membership in 1784. He was an able and eloquent man, and filled a series of high ecclesiastical appointments, including in succession the bishoprics of St. David's, Rochester, and St. Asaph. Dr. Wilkinson Blanchard was a physician, elected F.R.S. in 1759. These two additions to the Club were good illustrations of the practice, already alluded to, of inviting candidates for admission during many months previous to the day of election.

At this General Meeting it was also ordered that for the future the Astronomer Royal should be *ex officio* a member of the Club. Consequently Dr. Maskelyne, who had often dined with the Royal Philosophers, but always by invitation, could now take his place there by right of membership. This eminent philosopher, after a brilliant career at Cambridge, crowned by a Fellowship at Trinity College, took the degree



FRANCIS MASERES, F.R.S., 1771.

(Aetat. 83).

of Doctor of Divinity and entered the Church. But his energies were ultimately devoted to physical science and especially to astronomy. He had been appointed Astronomer Royal in 1765. At the early age of twenty-six he had in 1758 been elected into the Royal Society, and the Copley Medal was awarded to him in 1775 for a remarkable paper containing "Observations on the attraction of Mountains."

The year 1767 was marked by some singular variations in the attendance of members at the meetings of the Club. On April 23, being St. George's Day, the usual meeting-room was given up to the Society of Antiquaries for their annual dinner, and dinner was ordered by the Treasurer for only six that day. When the 23rd came only one member of the Club appeared, bringing with him a visitor. The host was Henry Cavendish and his guest was Nevil Maskelyne! The Treasurer has left no record of what bill of fare had been prepared for that day. A similar incident happened on 23rd September, but with another member and another guest. In this case, however, dinner had been provided for twelve, so that the Fund had to pay for ten absentees. The diminution in the attendance during August and September, to which reference has already been made, still continued this year. At no dinner during either of these two months was the full number present for which provision had been made.

A few Englishmen of note appeared this year among the Club's visitors. Foremost of these came Joseph Banks, who three years afterwards was elected a member, and subsequently for more than a generation played a large part in the history both of the Royal Society and of the Club. Sir James Porter dined with the Club more than once. Sir John Cope was a frequent guest in anticipation of his election as a member, which took place in the course of three years. Dr. Pringle now appears on the dinner lists as Sir John, having had a baronetcy conferred upon him in the previous summer. Mr. Chamier dined on 4th June. This was doubtless Johnson's friend Andrew Chamier, on whose judgment the sage greatly relied. He was of Huguenot

descent and had been a stockbroker, acquiring such a fortune as enabled him, though young, to quit business and cultivate literature and politics. In 1775 he was appointed Under Secretary of State. He was selected to be the "Professor of Commercial Politicks" in the visionary College which Johnson and Boswell, when at St. Andrews, amused themselves by imagining. He deserves also to be remembered as one of the signatories to the famous round-robin presented to Johnson about his Latin epitaph on Goldsmith.¹

The records of this year afford pleasing evidence of the growth of the friendship between Sir John Pringle and Benjamin Franklin. On the 18th June Pringle invited his colonial friend to the Club, at the same time asking his helpful correspondent, Peter Collinson, to meet him. Towards the end of August Sir John and Franklin set out on a short trip into France. A brief account of their journey is given in a letter from Franklin to Miss Stevenson, dated Paris, September 14. At Versailles, where they were presented at Court, "the King talked a good deal to Sir John, asking many questions about our royal family, and did me too the honour of taking some notice of me: that is saying enough; for I would not have you think me so much pleased with this King and Queen, as to have a whit less regard than I used to have for ours. No Frenchman shall go beyond me in thinking my own King and Queen the very best in the world and the most amiable."²

It was an anxious time for Franklin and he needed all the relaxation which he enjoyed at the Club, and in such excursions as that which he took to France. He had been

¹ *Boswell's Life of Johnson* (Birkbeck Hill's Edit.) i. 478.

² *Life of Franklin*, 4th Edit. i. p. 542. His loyalty continued notwithstanding the political antagonisms amidst which he moved. Thus on 1st January 1769, for the opening of the Royal Academy of Arts, he wrote some congratulatory verses in which he described his muse joining the throng of jubilants as

Tho' poor, yet willing, and tho' rude, sincere;
To praise the Sovereign whom her heart approves,
And pay this tribute to the Arts she loves.

Ann. Register, 1769, p. 214.

examined at length before the House of Commons in the previous year and his examination, which was published without the name of either printer or publisher, had greatly enhanced his reputation. In an appreciative article in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for July it was said that "the questions in general are put with great subtilty and judgment, and they are answered with such deep and familiar knowledge of the subject, such precision and perspicuity, such temper and yet such spirit, as do the greatest honour to Dr. Franklin and justify the general opinion of his character and abilities."

Few foreigners were entertained at the Club in this year. Count Verri appeared in January ; Count Sarsfield in June. In August Dr. Maty brought "Mr. Le Cat," possibly the noted French surgeon, who had made himself famous with his pen as well as with his surgical implements, and was now in his sixty-seventh year. He died next year. John Obadiah Justamond, probably of French extraction but long established in London as a surgeon, was likewise a guest. He had published translations into English of various French works. A series of his own papers was issued after his death with the title of "Surgical Tracts." He became F.R.S. in 1775.

1768. This year opened auspiciously at the Club. The Earl of Morton had never been more assiduous in his attendance at the dinners. Out of twenty-one meetings from 12th November 1767 to 21st March 1768 he had only been absent from two. He often invited two guests, mainly men of distinction, and continued to "compliment" the Club, as Josiah Colebrooke would say, with the choicest fruits from his hot-houses. At the General Meeting in July he was again unanimously re-elected President, and though absent on that occasion he was in his place at the next dinner. The last time that he presided was on 6th October. He died on the 12th of that month.

The Annual General Meeting for 1768 was held on 28th July and was attended by twelve members, James Burrow taking the Chair. The Treasurer's statement showed that

the total expenditure for the past year had been £9 5s. 3d., of which sum £7 8s. 6d. was owing to deficiencies, and that a balance of £2 7s. 1d. remained in his hands.

The Treasurer further reported that Lord Cadogan, Thomas Wood and Philip Miller had not attended the Club meetings since the last audit. These members were accordingly declared to have forfeited their seats from non-attendance. To fill their places a ballot was taken and Henry Boulton Cay, Dr. Richard Warren and Dr. Richard Jebb were elected.

Mr. Cay, Fellow of Clare College, Cambridge, has been already mentioned as a guest on July 25th 1765. He was a barrister of the Middle Temple. His name does not appear in the List of Fellows of the Royal Society. It would appear therefore that the Club did not yet consider the title of F.R.S. to be indispensable in any candidate for its membership.

Richard Warren, M.D., was a Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge, who rose to eminence as a physician in London. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1764.

Richard Jebb, M.D., was at the date of his election physician to St. George's Hospital. He became prominent in the medical profession and was created a baronet in 1778. His connection with the Club, however, was brief and inglorious, for at the Anniversary in 1770 he was declared to have vacated his membership by non-attendance. He had been elected into the Royal Society in 1765.

The Minute of the Anniversary Meeting concludes thus—
“The Earl of Morton, continued President; J. Colebrooke, Treasurer with thanks.” At the end of this Minute the Treasurer subsequently inserted the following addition:

“The Society having the misfortune to lose the Earl of Morton, their President, James West, Esq^r, being chose President of the Royal Society, was this 1st of December 1768 elected a Member and President of this Society, in the Room of the Earl of Morton; The Presidentship between the Death of the Earl of Morton and the Election of Mr. West, was supplied by James Burrow Esq^r.”

Mr. West accordingly took the Chair on 8th December. Mr. Burrow, as one of the original members of the Club

and one of the oldest and most respected Fellows of the Royal Society, was naturally chosen to fill the Chair, both at the Society and at the Club, until in the course of a few weeks the Society would at its anniversary on St. Andrew's day elect a new President. The same compliment was paid to him in 1772 when the Presidency of the Society again became vacant between two anniversaries.

Among the points of interest secured by the ruling of the General Meeting in 1766, that the names of the visitors should be recorded together with those of the members by whom they were invited, is the revelation of the hospitable assiduity of the zealous Treasurer. Year after year, besides looking after the general well-being of the Club, he was one of its most devoted members in the invitation of acceptable strangers. At most dinners he provided one visitor, often two. The dinner-lists for this year show that he entertained sixteen guests, some of them several times. They included the Earl of Huntingdon, the Bishop of St. David's, the Bishop of Carlisle, Mr. James West, F.R.S., Mr. Joseph Banks, and a number of the candidates for admission into the Club. He had again this year the satisfaction of chronicling the continued generosity of the friends who so liberally contributed venison, turtles, and other comestibles. He notes now and then that he himself was a contributor. Thus on one occasion when the two fish courses consisted of "Pike and Soles," he adds at the foot of the list of dishes "the Pike by the Treasurer." At another dinner "A Carp and Tench by the Treasurer," and at a third "Potted Charre by the Treasurer," are duly recorded. On all three occasions he had been absent from the previous dinner. The idea naturally occurs that he sometimes escaped from Budge Row to have a few days angling on inland waters. But when he presents a "Turbutt," it is difficult to believe that he included deep-sea fishing among his recreations. His appreciation of fish as an article of diet continued marked up to the end of his treasurership; he hardly ever failed to provide two kinds of fish at the beginning of each dinner.

The Club's bill of fare, which had retained its original

substantial character for fully twenty years, now begins to show further symptoms of the gradual change in the fashions of diet which had been spreading through Society outside of the conservative walls of "The Mitre." This modification is shown in the more frequent appearance of vegetable dishes during the summer months. Beans, peas, artichokes, asparagus come in their seasonal order. Potatoes may all along have been on the table though not inserted on the menu, but they are definitely mentioned in the record of the dinners this year. The vegetables drop out of the list of eatables during winter. Brocoli appears for the first time on 3rd May 1770. Potatoes and French beans are recorded on 13th September in the same year.

There were few foreign guests at the table of the Club this year. Count Brühl appeared twice in the winter and spring. On the second occasion he was invited by Dr. Maty, who as Secretary of the Royal Society saw that hospitality was shown to foreigners. At the same time he had another foreign guest, Count Zinzendorff, whom Lord Chesterfield describes as "a very pretty man, well-bred, and with a great deal of useful knowledge, for these things are very consistent."¹ It is said of him that he liked to live well, and that at his own table "with a true Apician eloquence he generously instructed all the novices in good living. As Solomon discoursed of every herb, from the cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop on the wall, so he began with a champignon no bigger than a Dutchman's waistcoat-button, and ended with the wild-boar, the glory of the German forests."

The Earl of Huntingdon dined many times with the Club in the course of the year. Mr. West was likewise a guest until his election as President. Benjamin Franklin came again by invitation of his friend Sir John Pringle. Joseph Banks, Thomas Pennant, Howard of Graystock, Daines Barrington, the Bishops of Oxford and St. David's, Sir Thomas Robinson and others were among those who dined with the Philosophers at the Mitre.

¹ *Chesterfield's Letters to his Son*, vol. ii. p. 310.

Although matters went on peacefully as usual at the Mitre, there was much political commotion in London in the earlier half of this year. In April and May a series of riots led to much injury of property, and much anxiety on the side of the peaceable part of the community. Franklin, who was in London at the time, has left a graphic picture of the condition of things in the metropolis as he himself witnessed it. Writing on April 16th he recounts that he has seen "the mob requiring gentlemen and ladies of all ranks, as they passed in their carriages, to shout for Wilkes and liberty, marking the same words on all their coaches with chalk and No. 45 on every door. I went last week to Winchester, and observed that for fifteen miles out of town there was scarce a door or window-shutter next the road unmarked, and this continued here and there quite to Winchester." Again, on May 14th he wrote: "This capital is now a daily scene of lawless riot. Mobs patrolling the streets at noon-day, some knocking all down that will not roar for Wilkes and liberty; courts of justice afraid to give judgment against him; coal-heavers and porters pulling down the houses of coal-merchants that refuse to give them more wages; sawyers destroying saw-mills; sailors unrigging all the outward-bound ships, and suffering none to sail till the merchants agree to raise their pay; watermen destroying private boats and destroying bridges; soldiers firing among the mobs and killing men, women and children."¹

Throughout this turmoil the philosophers met and dined as they had been wont. When Franklin and Pringle dined with them on 2nd June their several experiences during the previous weeks would doubtless form the subject of not a little of their talk.

But at the dinners of the Club this year a more agreeable topic of conversation would be found in the preparations that were being made for the observation of the transit of Venus, which was to take place in 1769. The Royal Society had taken the lead in these preparations, and in

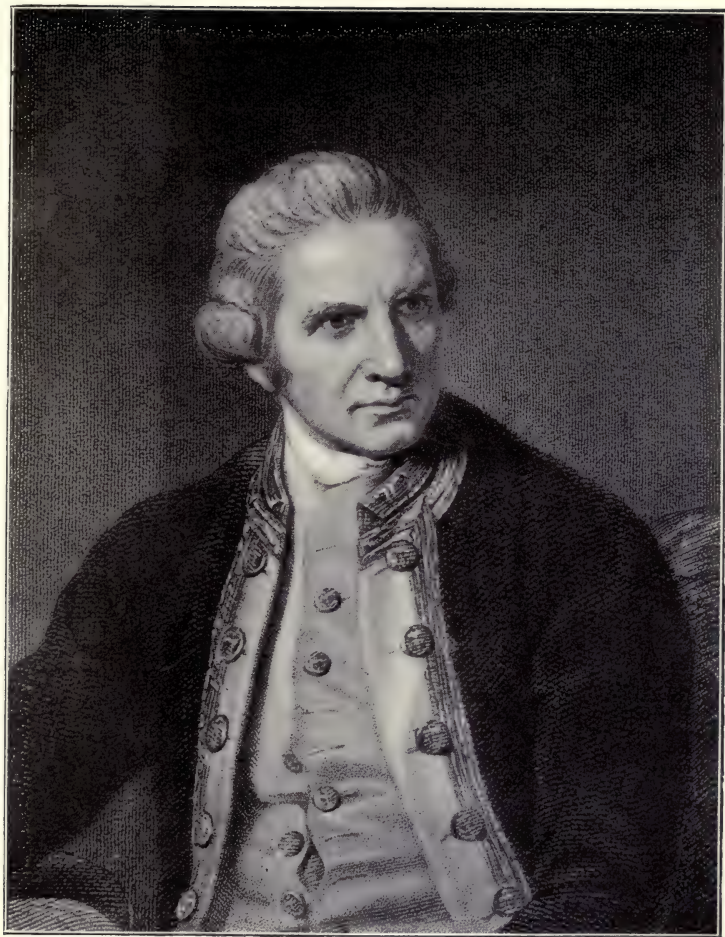
¹ *Memoirs of Franklin*, iii. 307, 315.

addition to the assistance afforded by the Admiralty, had collected a considerable sum of money towards financing the scientific part of the expedition. One of its youngest Fellows, Joseph Banks, had proposed to accompany Captain James Cook on the voyage to the Central Pacific Ocean, and his offer had been accepted by the Society and the Government. His wealth enabled him to make extensive arrangements for collecting objects in natural history, and to take with him a competent staff of assistants and artists. With the vigour of youth (he was then only five-and-twenty) and with the whole ardour of his enthusiastic nature, he worked hard to secure that his preparations should be well-considered and complete down to the smallest detail. It must have been with no little pride and hope that the Fellows of the Royal Society and members of the Club witnessed these labours, and finally bade farewell to the *Endeavour*, which under Captain Cook sailed from Plymouth on the 25th of August.

1769. The Annual General Meeting, held this year on July 27th, was attended by eleven members and presided over by James Burrow. The statement by the Treasurer showed that he had paid out £7 rs. 6d., which included a sum of £6 13s. 6d. for deficiencies in attendance, leaving in his hands a residue of no more than 3s. 7d. He naturally appealed for an addition to the Fund, and the meeting ordered that a contribution of 5s. should be levied on every member.

One vacancy arose from the death of Dr. Alexander Russell. Dr. Crusius not having attended for more than a year had lost his place, and thus a second vacancy was caused.

The places were filled by the election of Dr. Richard Huck and William Man Godschall. Dr. Huck entered the army in 1745 as surgeon, served abroad and in America, was promoted to be physician to the army, and went through the whole of the Seven Years' War. Thereafter he settled in London as a practising physician and became physician to St. Thomas' Hospital. In 1777 he married the niece



CAPTAIN JAMES COOK, F.R.S., 1776.

and heiress of Admiral Sir Charles Saunders, with whom he acquired a large fortune, and he then took the name of Saunders in addition to his own. He became F.R.S. in 1768. Mr. Godschall was elected into the Royal Society in 1758.

The number of the company for which commons were provided continued to be twelve. This year, however, at more than half of the dinners this number was not reached. On two occasions in August and one in December only three diners made their appearance. The Treasurer would need all the supply which had been voted to him, for not only had he to disburse for the deficient attendance, but there would come all the game-keeper's fees, charges for carriage and cooks' perquisites connected with the venison that the Earl of Shaftesbury, Lord Cadogan or the Earl of Hardwicke might present. With a touch of humour he records on 26th October another unexpected demand on his Fund: "Ordered that the Treasurer do pay for a bad shilling taken in the last Reckoning."

The foreign visitors this year included two interesting personages from France who dined with the Club on 2nd March. Louis Alexandre Duc de La Rochefoucauld D'Enville, representing one of the oldest and most distinguished families of his country, at first followed the profession of arms, but he eventually devoted himself to liberal and enlightened scientific studies, assisting with his ample fortune the prosecution of science. In 1782 he was elected into the Academy of Sciences. At the time of his visit to England he was only six-and-twenty. During the troublous years which preceded the French Revolution he took an active and liberal part in public affairs, being one of the first nobles to join the Tiers-État. He was treacherously stoned to death in 1792 before the eyes of his mother and his wife. Benjamin Franklin and he were friends, and doubtless they had many intercommunications when the Duke was translating into French the "Constitutions of the thirteen United States of America" (1783).

The Duke's kinsman who was with him as a visitor to

the Club, the Duc de La Rochefoucauld-Liancourt, was nearly four years younger. Horace Walpole, who met him in London, wrote of him to Sir Horace Mann: "Do you know this young Duke. He is very amiable and worthy—much more worthy than his ancestor." His main object in the visit to England was to enquire into English agricultural methods. On his return to France he founded a model farm, also an educational institution for the children of poor soldiers. He led an active and distinguished career through the stormy times of the Revolution. Loyal to the King, he was for a time trusted by the popular party. When the monarchy was doomed he received a hint to make his escape from France. He crossed to England in a fishing-boat, and was welcomed by Arthur Young, but went on to the United States. In 1799 he returned to France and lived for a while in strict retirement. When he revisited his estates he found all his undertakings as he had left them, the various authorities that sprang out of the Revolution having preserved them though they proscribed him. He resumed his philanthropic works, and took his place eventually as a peer of France. He died on 23rd March 1827, at the age of eighty, universally respected and esteemed.

Perhaps the most interesting of the home guests of the Club this year was James Burnett, one of the judges of the Scottish Court of Session, commonly known as Lord Monboddo, a courtesy title derived from his estate of that name in Kincardineshire. Educated first at the Universities of Aberdeen and Edinburgh, he had, like so many of his contemporaries in Scotland, completed his training at a Dutch seat of learning. Walter Scott described him as "a devout believer in the virtues of the heroic ages, and the deterioration of civilised mankind; a great condemner of luxuries, insomuch that he never used a wheeled carriage." He published a treatise on the Origin of Language and another on Ancient Metaphysics, but he is perhaps best remembered for his belief that the earliest men had tails which were by degrees worn off by the habit of sitting. Four years later than this dinner he received Samuel

Johnson and James Boswell at Monboddoo, of which visit so pleasant a description is given by Boswell.

Another notable visitor was the physician Thomas Dimsdale, who had served under the Duke of Cumberland in 1745 and had afterwards gone to Russia, where, having inoculated the Empress Catharine and various Russian princes against small-pox, he received the hereditary title of a Russian baron. He was familiarly known as Baron Dimsdale.

1770. The Annual General Meeting in 1770 was held on July 26, and was attended by

James Burrow, in the Chair.

Dr. William Watson	Hon. Henry Cavendish
Dr. Huck	Rev. Nevil Maskelyne
Dr. Baker	Samuel Dyer
George Eckersal	Josiah Colebrooke, Treasurer

and by one visitor, Benjamin Franklin. The Treasurer reported that the expenditure for the past year had been £10 4s., of which £9 2s. 6d. had arisen from deficiencies in the attendance, leaving a balance of 11d. against the Club. The total attendance at the dinners since the last Annual General Meeting was 519, comprising 399 members and 120 visitors.

Dr. Wilkinson Blanchard and Dr. Nicholas Munckley had died since the last anniversary. The Earl of Marchmont, Rev. John Cooksey, Dr. Jebb, Samuel Mead and Rev. Dr. Saunders were declared absentees, and were thus struck off the membership of the Club; the regulation for non-attendance being still at this period enforced with promptitude and impartiality. Even the generous gifts of pickled salmon from the Earl of Marchmont were not regarded as screening him from the strict application of the rule.

Seven new members were now elected by ballot from the list of candidates. These were the following :

John Cuthbert, who was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1765; William Russell, who became F.R.S. in 1777, and in 1782 succeeded Dr. Solander as Treasurer of the Club; Sir John Mordaunt Cope, Bart., elected F.R.S. in 1765; Edward Hooper, elected F.R.S. in 1759; Sir James

Porter, to whom reference has already been made (*ante*, p. 82); William Watson, jun., M.D. (F.R.S. 1767), son of one of the original members of the Club, the veteran Dr. William Watson; and Joseph Banks, who entered the Royal Society in 1766.

As the last-named new member was to play so notable a part in the history both of the Royal Society and of the dining Club, a few biographical facts about him may be appropriately inserted here. Banks was born in 1743, and educated at Harrow, Eton and Oxford, but left the University without taking a degree, though not without having gained the reputation of being an enthusiast in natural history pursuits. This deserved reputation led to his being elected a Fellow of the Royal Society when he was only three-and-twenty years of age. The considerable fortune which he inherited enabled him to lend powerful financial aid to the advancement of science. At the time of his election into the Club he was absent with Captain Cook on the Pacific Ocean, engaged in amassing those extensive collections which for the first time revealed some of the natural history features of many new lands. The voyage lasted two years, and when Banks returned he found himself famous. He would fain have accompanied Captain Cook in his second voyage, and had made considerable preparations for the undertaking, when some official hindrance led him to abandon the design. Not to lose altogether the use of what he had prepared, he fitted out a vessel and sailed to Iceland in 1772, where he again made botanical and other collections, visiting on the way the then unknown isle of Staffa, the singularly impressive aspect of which he first revealed to the world.¹ When only thirty-five years of age he was elected President of the Royal Society in 1778, and he held this position till he died in 1820—a period of forty-two years. He was thus probably the youngest man who ever filled the chair, and certainly his tenure of the office

¹ In a communication to Thomas Pennant, who published it (together with a selection of sketches from Banks' portfolios) in his "Tour in Scotland" (1774)—a volume which he dedicated to Banks.

was far longer than that of any of those who have held it either before or since. His influence in the scientific society of his time was powerful and was always directed towards the advancement of knowledge. He was universally respected as a sympathetic and munificent Maecenas of Science.

At the same General Meeting of the Club the Treasurer called attention to the serious deficiencies in the attendance since the last Anniversary and moved that "commons should be provided for eight only during the Recess of the Royal Society." The Meeting accordingly "Ordered, that it be left to the Discretion of the Treasurer to give directions on y^e account," and it was further resolved that a contribution of 5s. 3d. should be levied on each member.

In spite of the lowering of the number for which dinner was to be ordered, in the following month of August, at three dinners out of four, the attendance was less than that number. On the 9th of the month only four members came to partake of the Earl of Hardwicke's venison, and of these four two, Dr. Watson and Dr. Heberden, were among the earliest members of the Club. The Treasurer does not record himself as having attended any of the dinners in August. In September matters were reversed, for only at one dinner in that month was the full complement of eight diners not reached or surpassed. The Treasurer was evidently perplexed by such vagaries. He seems to have economised, not only by reducing the number of dinners to be provided for, but by diminishing the bill of fare during the autumn months. The two courses of fish are reduced to one, and fish is sometimes absent altogether. In the early summer of this year soup begins timidly to appear at two dinners, with a month's interval between them. Whether or not its appearance was welcomed by the members, it does not occur again in the bills of fare until near the end of the following year, when after "Stoved Carp" and "Cod," come "Soup and bouillie." Again a fortnight later, the "Soup and Bouillie" succeed "Salmon and Smelts" and "Skate." At the second dinner of 1772 the fish-course is followed by "Knuckle of Veal and Soup," and at the third

dinner "Soup and Veal" come below the "Cod and Stoved Carp." At last, on February 13th, "Pease Soup" heads the list, but immediately thereafter the old priority of the double fish-course reasserts itself.

Some foreign guests of note were entertained by the Club in the course of this year. The Prince of Masserano, Spanish Ambassador to Great Britain, dined on the 10th May. He had been resident in London for some years. Horace Walpole says of him: "The three great ambassadors danced at Court;—the Prince of Masserano, they say, well; he is extremely in fashion, and is a sensible, good-humoured man, though his appearance is so deceitful. They have given me the honour of a *bon mot*, which, I assure you, does not belong to me: that I never saw a man so full of *orders* and *disorders*." ¹ The poor Ambassador's "disorders" increased on him as time passed. Walpole wrote some years later: "The Prince of Masserano is set out, so ill, that I question if he will reach Calais." ²

"M. de Bougainville" is chronicled as a guest on 24th May. There were two distinguished brothers of the name. Louis Antoine the navigator has been already referred to (p. 57). As the guest on this occasion was invited by the President, who was not scientific but antiquarian and a collector of prints, coins and rare books, we may conjecture that the M. de Bougainville now in question was Jean Pierre, who would be a congenial messmate to James West, for he was Secretary of the Académie des Inscriptions at Paris, and a correspondent of Lord Chesterfield's.

On 13th September M. de La Condamine reappeared at the Club as the guest of Dr. Morton. Sir John Pringle was chairman and Henry Cavendish was there. No record appears to have survived of any special oddities of the eminent Frenchman on this visit.

1771. The Annual General Meeting in 1771 took place on July 25th, and was attended by sixteen members. James

¹ To Earl of Hertford, 8th June 1764.

² To Sir Horace Mann, 19th September 1777. The Prince died on the 15th November following.

Burrow presiding. Among those present were Sir John Pringle, Henry Cavendish, Joseph Banks, Nevil Maskelyne, Samuel Dyer, and Dr. William Watson. The Treasurer announced that the expenses (including £5 8s. 6d. for deficiencies in attendance) amounted to £6 10s. 11d., leaving a balance of £8 15s. 2d. in his hands. Two vacancies were reported, caused by the death of George Eckersall and John Hyde. The vacant places were filled up by the election of Sir Joseph Ayloffe, Bart., and John Darker. Sir Joseph Ayloffe, as already mentioned (p. 7), was elected into the Club as far back as 1744, but lost his membership in 1749 for non-attendance. John Darker had been elected into the Royal Society in 1768.

The attendance at the dinners this year continued to be as variable as ever and to give the Treasurer no little trouble to make his provision and avoid too serious a demand on the Fund. The numbers during the last three months of the previous year having been good, he availed himself of the liberty allowed to him and raised the provision of commons from eight to twelve. Anticipating, however, a falling-off in the attendance during the autumn months he appears to have arranged with the vintner that the provision should then be again for eight. But, for some reason that is not obvious, the attendance during August and September continued to be generally much above the provision and never fell below it. And this improvement was maintained to the end of the year, hardly any of the dinners necessitating a demand on the Fund.

In regard to the bill of fare a noticeable feature is the increasing recognition of the importance of vegetables in addition to the solid joints of roast or boiled. In winter and spring "greens" generally appear on the table, with the addition of carrots, turnips or potatoes. As the summer months come on French beans, peas, artichokes, asparagus and radishes oftener find a place, followed by currant-tart and "gooseberry pyes," while at the same time made-dishes are occasionally intercalated among the joints.

A few names may be selected from the list of guests

during this year. One which occurs more frequently than any other is that of the Dutchman John Ingenhousz, M.D., who from the 21st of March to the 28th of November dined no fewer than eighteen times, and usually on the invitation of Sir John Pringle, who being also a medical man, and having been partly educated in Holland, would naturally befriend him. After practising medicine for some years in his native town of Breda, Ingenhousz came to England, where his talents soon attracted notice. Sir John Pringle more especially helped him forward. When the Empress Maria Theresa, in despair over the loss of two children from small-pox, appealed to Pringle to send her an able doctor for the purpose of inoculating the Imperial family, he despatched Ingenhousz, who acquitted himself with success, for which he received various honours. Besides being a trained physician he was also a man of science, and made some interesting and important discoveries in plant-life. He must also have possessed some social gifts, for he became a much appreciated guest at the Club. He had been elected F.R.S. in 1769. Thirty years later he died in England.

Another medical visitor this year and afterwards was John Belchier, Surgeon to Guy's Hospital, who had contributed papers to the *Philosophical Transactions*, and had become F.R.S. as far back as 1732. That he was a man of some nerve and resolution is shown in the following anecdote of him, preserved in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1743. "One Stephen Wright who, as a patient, came to Mr. Belchier, being alone with him in the room, clapt a pistol to his breast, demanding money. Mr. Belchier offered him two guineas which he refused ; but accepting six guineas and a gold watch, as he was putting them in his pocket Mr. Belchier took the opportunity to seize upon him and after a struggle secured him."

Francis Maseres, who often dined with the Club, was of Huguenot descent, his family having come to England after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. He took his degree at Cambridge and became a barrister of the Inner Temple, but subsequently moved to Canada, where he was appointed



ALEXANDER AUBERT, F.R.S., 1772.

Attorney-General. Returning to England he eventually became Cursitor Baron of the Exchequer. He wrote on mathematics, politics, economics and history. His interest in the history of mathematics led him to produce a laborious work, *Scriptores Logarithmici*, in six volumes quarto. He was a cultivated and large-minded bachelor, who lived to be past 92. In his old age he would sometimes forget that he had a party in the evening, but if his mind were led back to the details of some distant period, his memory seemed to be as clear and full as ever. The classical studies of his youth continued to delight him to the last. He was a staunch Whig. Of the wealth which he inherited he made a generous use, especially in helping charities and the poor. He became F.R.S. on May 2nd this year.

The Hon. Constantine John Phipps, who dined on December 12th on the invitation of Banks, joined the Navy in 1760 when he was 16 years of age. Afterwards he entered Parliament as member for Lincoln. But he continued on the active list in the Navy. Two years after he dined with the Club he commanded the *Racehorse* in the Arctic expedition already referred to (p. 57). He succeeded to his father's title in 1775 and became Lord Mulgrave. Three years later, commanding the *Courageux*, he distinguished himself in the action off Ushant.

Captain James Cook, fresh from his great voyage and universally hailed as one of the greatest navigators that the Navy had ever possessed, dined with the Club on 21st November on the invitation of Dr. Maskelyne, and next week as the guest of Banks. The latter had lost no time in reporting himself at the Club and paying his admission fee. The *Endeavour* cast anchor in the Downs on 12th July and Banks dined with the Club on the 25th of that month. He would have a warm welcome from James Burrow, the Chairman, Sir John Pringle, Henry Cavendish, Maskelyne, Dr. Watson, Dyer, and the other members then assembled.

CHAPTER V

PRESIDENTSHIP OF SIR JOHN PRINGLE, 1772-1778

1772. THE year 1772 was marked by changes in the Presidency of the Royal Society and consequently in the Chairmanship of the Club. By the death of James West on 2nd July both offices became vacant. The Council of the Society again elected James Burrow to fill the chair temporarily until the Anniversary on 30th November. And the Club likewise chose him to preside at their dinners until a new President was found for the Society. In his absence Sir John Pringle usually took the chair, or if he too were absent Henry Cavendish was chairman. On November 30, being St. Andrew's day, the Royal Society chose Sir John Pringle as the President, and during the last weeks of the year he always presided at the Club. In the twenty years that had passed since he became a member of the Club his reputation as a physician and man of affairs had been steadily increasing. His great work "Observations on the Diseases of the Army," which was published in 1752, attracted attention not only in this country but all over the Continent, and became a classic in military literature. His high position among the physicians of his day gave him great influence in Society and enabled him to advance the progress of science. His kindness of heart led him to befriend many of the younger scientific men of his time. His devotion to the interests of the Royal Society Club continued unfailing all through his tenure of the Presidentship. No previous President had been so constant in his attendance at the

meetings, and even Sir Joseph Banks was not more active and successful in bringing eminent men, native and foreign, as guests to the dinners.

The General Meeting, held on July 30, 1772, was attended by eleven members, James Burrow in the chair. The Treasurer reported that the expenses had come to £5 4s., including £2 17s. for deficiencies in attendance, and that there remained in his hands unexpended the sum of £6 16s. 10d. He announced that by the death of James West, the President, of John Ellicott and of Dr. Gowin Knight three vacancies arose; that Lord Charles Cavendish had intimated his desire to resign his membership; that Earl Verney had not attended since May 10, 1770, and Israel Wilkes had been absent from the meetings since October 4, 1770. The list of Candidates having been read six vacancies were declared. These were filled by ballot, when the following Candidates were elected:—the Honourable Daines Barrington, Dr. John Turton, Rev. Francis Wollaston, John Walsh, Alexander Aubert and Thomas Astle.

It was further resolved that the President of the Royal Society should be deemed a member of this Club *ex officio*, if not already a member.

A few biographical facts about the new members may be inserted here. Daines Barrington (1727-1800), son of the first Viscount Barrington, had often in past years been a guest at the meetings of the Club. He was a barrister of the Inner Temple, keenly interested in antiquarian and natural history pursuits. He held successively various legal appointments. About this time he was much concerned in furthering Arctic exploration, and was largely instrumental in prevailing on the Admiralty to dispatch two exploring vessels to the northern coasts of North America in 1773, when Captain Phipps, as already mentioned, commanded the *Racehorse*. Perhaps his chief claim to remembrance is that he was one of the privileged correspondents of Gilbert White, and that he is credited with having suggested to that naturalist to put together the materials

that form his immortal "Natural History of Selborne." Barrington had been elected into the Royal Society on June 4, 1767.

The Rev. Francis Wollaston, senior wrangler, of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, wrote on astronomical subjects. After holding various ecclesiastical appointments he became in 1779 Rector of St. Vedast, Foster Lane, London, and retained that office until his death in 1815. He was elected F.R.S. in 1769. He was the father of William Hyde Wollaston, whose name will often appear on later pages of these Annals.

Alexander Aubert, a wealthy merchant, Director and Governor of the London Assurance Company, was fond of astronomy. He built a private observatory near Deptford and another at Islington. He was made F.R.S. on the 9th of January this year, and took so much interest in the affairs of the Society that he was spoken of as a possible successor to Sir John Pringle in the Presidency. He proved a most useful member of the Club.

John Turton received his education at Oxford, where he took the degrees of M.A. and M.D. He became physician to George III. and the Royal Family. His election into the Royal Society dated from 1763.

John Walsh had been paymaster of the troops at Madras and private secretary to Clive. Returning to England he in 1771 purchased a property in Berkshire. He became F.R.S. in 1770.

Thomas Astle was an eminent antiquary who, having shown skill in the deciphering of manuscripts, was appointed royal commissioner for the methodising of State-papers at Whitehall. This office he held at the time of his election into the Club. Afterwards he became chief clerk of the Record Office at the Tower. He wrote many papers on antiquarian subjects, and published a work on the "Origin and Progress of Writing." He was elected into the Royal Society in 1766.

In anticipation of a diminished attendance during the months of August and September it was ordered that

provision should be made for eight dinners only instead of twelve, which had been the stipulated number since the previous year.

The most conspicuous foreign guest this year was Prince Michael Poniatowski, brother of the King of Poland, who no doubt brought to the Club kindly greetings from their former guest of 1754. During this visit to London the Prince saw Mr. Desenfans, well known as a picture dealer, who at his suggestion was made Consul-general for Poland in England, and was given a commission to purchase pictures for the proposed gallery of art at Warsaw, to which reference has already been made (p. 51). A large number of pictures was bought in the course of years and paid for by the purchaser. The disturbances in Poland and the crash of the French Revolution prevented the collection from being sent abroad. Through the generosity of Mr. Desenfans and Sir Francis Bourgeois the collection now forms a valuable part of the art treasures of Dulwich College. Prince Michael Poniatowski was elected into the Royal Society on March 31st 1791.

A little group of Scandinavian men of science who were in England at this time were entertained at the Club. Foremost among these was Dr. Solander, the favourite pupil of Linnaeus and the constant companion and assistant of Joseph Banks. He became a member of the Club next year, and a brief notice of him will be given in the enumeration of those elected in 1773. There were likewise John Christian Fabricius, another pupil of Linnaeus, specially distinguished for his entomological studies, and who greatly helped Banks with the insect part of his extensive collections; Uno von Troil, who accompanied Banks to Iceland and ultimately became Archbishop of Upsala, and Dr. Gahn, possibly the well-known Swedish mineralogist.

On the 14th of May Sir John Pringle brought to the Club a real live Baron Münchhausen, not, however, the military hero whose marvellous adventures were the delight of boyhood a generation or two ago, but the Minister who represented Hanover, and who had taken liberties with the

name of the Duke of Cumberland, for which he received a severe reprimand from the Duke. The career of the writer of the once highly popular "Adventures of Baron Münchhausen" will come before us in the record of the year 1775.

The Earl of Dartmouth, second holder of the title, who attended the dinner on 20th February, had filled various offices of state and this year was made Colonial Secretary. Dartmouth College, at Hanover, New Hampshire, U.S.A., was named after him. Various naval officers were brought by Banks to the evening meetings of the Club, including Captain Phipps, already mentioned, and Captain Bentinck, who then had his station at Portsmouth. Maskelyne had as his guest Colonel Roy of the Royal Engineers, of whom more will be narrated in later pages.

Of the non-professional visitors the "Mr. Boswell," introduced by Sir John Pringle on March 26th and again on April 30, was doubtless the biographer of Samuel Johnson.¹ On the first occasion the company numbered twenty-one. Mr. Burrow was in the chair, and there were present also Sir John Pringle, Henry Cavendish, Maskelyne, Joseph Banks, Solander, Colonel Roy, Captain Bentinck, Dr. Watson, Josiah Colebrooke and others. At the second dinner Pringle was Chairman and had two guests, Boswell and Dr. James Mounsey, an old Fellow of the Royal Society who had never joined the Club. There were likewise Henry Cavendish, Rev. Samuel Horsley (who this year was elected one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society), Maskelyne, Dr. Morton, Josiah Colebrooke, Alexander Aubert, the amateur astronomer, John Belchier, the surgeon from Guy's Hospital, John Walsh, Matthew Raper, and W. Russell. The talk on both evenings would be sufficiently varied and animated to please Boswell's taste, unless possibly his nerves may have been tried at the second party if he discovered that it numbered exactly thirteen.

Benjamin Franklin dined frequently at the Club, especially

¹ We know from the *Life* that at this time he was on terms of intimacy with Pringle.

in the later months of the year, usually on the invitation of Pringle. The same active host had Dr. Joseph Priestley as his guest on 10th December, when Franklin was also present. Priestley was then nine-and-thirty years of age, and had shown himself to be a brilliant and original genius. The Royal Society had recognised his merit by electing him into its body in 1766.

1773. At the Annual General Meeting held on July 29, 1773, there were sixteen members present and one visitor. James Burrow presided. The Treasurer's statement showed that the expenses for the past year had amounted only to £2 7s. 6d., of which £1 7s. was incurred by deficiencies in attendance. The unexpended balance was £10 17s. 4d.

The Treasurer intimated the death of Samuel Dyer, and reported that two members had been absentees, the one for one year, the other for two years. The Club decided that there were only two vacancies to be filled, but no direct information is given in the Minutes as to which of the two delinquents was excluded. The vacant places were filled by the election of James Stuart and Daniel Solander.

Both the new members had for some years been Fellows of the Royal Society. James Stuart, commonly known as "Athenian Stuart," was an architect and painter, who after visiting Rome and Greece published in 1762, in conjunction with his friend and fellow-traveller Revett, their "Antiquities of Athens," a work which introduced Greek architecture into London.

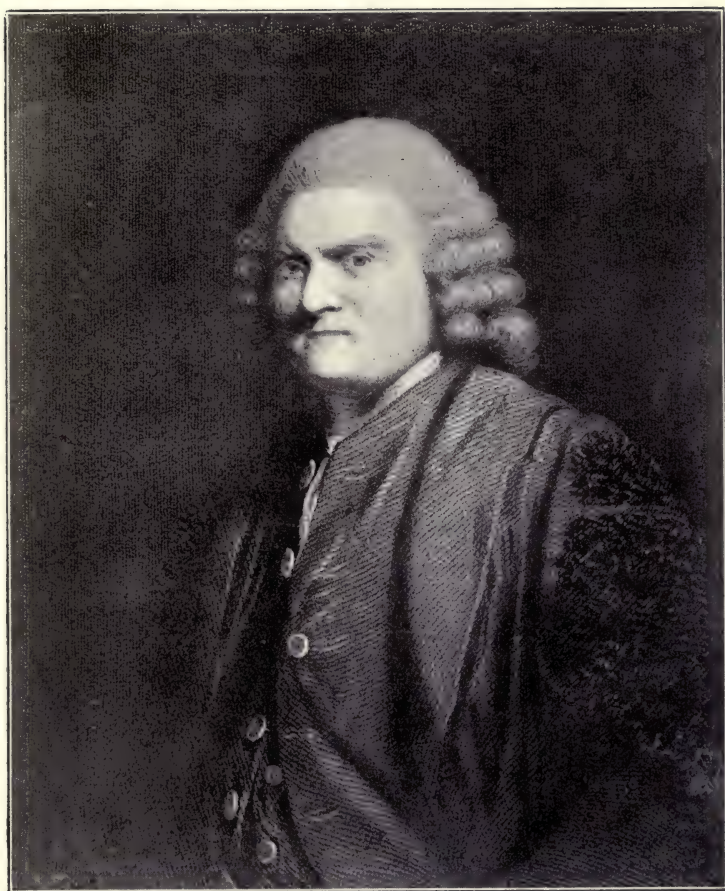
Daniel Charles Solander, M.D., born in Sweden, came to England in 1760, with recommendations from Linnaeus, as his "much loved pupil," to John Ellis, F.R.S., and Peter Collinson, F.R.S. On the advice of the latter he was asked to catalogue natural history collections in the British Museum, and he was in 1763 appointed an assistant-librarian in that institution. Five years later, when Banks decided to accompany Captain Cook in his first circumnavigating voyage, he had influence enough to obtain acceptance for his proposal to make provision for a deputy to fill Solander's place at

the Museum, while he took that naturalist with him on the voyage. Banks had recognised the remarkable mental powers, range of knowledge and pleasing character of the gifted Swede, and their experience on this long enterprise made them fast friends. On their return to England, Solander was installed in Banks' house in Soho Square as secretary and librarian, a position which he held as long as he lived. He accompanied Banks on his trip to Iceland. In 1773, the year with which we are now dealing, he was made keeper of printed books at the British Museum. Early in life he had gained a singularly sound acquaintance with the English language, which, added to his quiet unassuming manner, and the range of his acquirements, made him a general favourite in society.¹ Next year after his election into the Club he was unanimously chosen to be its Treasurer in succession to Josiah Colebrooke. His busy and useful career was unhappily cut short on 16th May 1782 by an apoplectic seizure, from which all the skill of Blagden, Hunter, Pitcairn and Heberden could not recover him.

The attendance at the dinners continued to be remarkably good. In the first half of the year there were only four occasions in which the company fell short of the number provided for, and the total demand on the Fund amounted only to nine deficiencies. What is equally noticeable is the recovery in the attendance during the autumn months. In August there were no more than three deficiencies and a similar number in September, while for the last three months of the year only three deficiencies had to be made good out of the Fund. These occurred in the week between Christmas and New-Year's Day, when members might reasonably have been expected to have other engagements.

A few foreign guests were this year visitors to the Club. Since his acquaintance with Solander, Banks had come in

¹ Fanny Burney, who saw a good deal of Solander, wrote of him in 1780: "my father has very exactly named him, in calling him a philosophical gossip." Madame D'Arblay's *Diary*, i. 305.



SIR JOHN PRINGLE, BART., M.D.

Pres. R.S., 1772-1778.

contact with a number of Swedish men of science, and he availed himself of their presence in London to invite them to the Club dinners. He had frequently invited Solander as his guest, who now would come by right of membership. He this year entertained a "Mr. De Geer." The name of De Geer is that of a well-known noble family in Sweden. Probably the individual in question was Charles, Baron de Geer, a noted and wealthy naturalist who especially studied insects and published a fine work upon them. His cabinet of natural history is preserved at Stockholm. Banks also again brought to the Club Fabricius and Gahn.

The Royal Philosophers were not wholly above the weakness which Trinculo attributed to their fellow-countrymen who "when they will not give a doit to relieve a lame beggar, will lay out ten to see a dead Indian." The sensation this year was the appearance of two Eskimos at dinner by name Etujak and Tuklavinia, introduced by Mr. Walsh. In what garb they came, what language they spoke, which of the dishes on the table they partook of and what they thought of them have not been recorded in Josiah Colebrooke's carefully detailed record of the guests and the fare.¹

The Count de Salis appeared at dinner together with Earl Stanhope and Benjamin Franklin, as guests of Sir John Pringle. Solander lost no time in exercising his rights as a member. On 4th November he had as his guests Count Brühl, who had not dined at the Club for some considerable time, and Deluc, the Swiss geologist who this year came to settle in England. Dr. Turton invited a "Mons^r Poissonier" on 17th June—possibly the eminent French physician and chemist to whose process for obtaining fresh water by distilling that of the sea Bougainville attributed the health of his crew in their voyage round the globe.

¹ A party of Esquimaux, consisting of two men with their wives and a child, made a popular exhibition in London during the winter of 1772-3. In the end both of the men died from fever, and the wives and child returned to their northern home.

dinner at which congenial men interested in science might meet in pleasant social union. He had tended it through its early years with unremitting zeal, husbanding its finances, catering for its entertainment and sedulously taking his part in the invitation of guests. He had watched it become increasingly linked with the Royal Society as a pleasant and useful appendage, to which admission was desired by the Fellows, and which supplied them with an opportunity not only of meeting each other, but of showing hospitality to outsiders in a more intimate and friendly way than was possible at the formal meetings in the rooms at Crane Court. He had every reason to retire with the consciousness that he had done his duty, and with the assurance that his labours had been rewarded by the most gratifying success. Of the eight friends who met together at the start only two besides himself now survived—Sir James Burrow and Dr. William Watson.

It is interesting to compare Josiah Colebrooke's latest with his earliest bills of fare. They show but little change in their general character. Their solidity and "John Bull" aspect remain. There are still two kinds of fish at the top followed by joints of beef, lamb, veal or pork, with calves' head, brawn, bacon and greens, fried trype, wild ducks, lobsters, one or more "plumb-puddings," several apple tarts and ending off with butter and cheese. But one marked alteration is visible: vegetables are much more prominent and varied. Throughout the winter and spring these generally consist only of "greens," but in spring radishes and parsnips occasionally appear. Asparagus is on the table three or four times in May and June, cherry or currant tarts are succeeded in later weeks by peas, beans, and cauliflower, and these in autumn by artichokes, until the "greens," which have seldom wholly disappeared, come back again as the standard vegetable diet, mingled with potatoes or flanked with turnips and pickles.

Another difference between the earlier and later bills of fare consists in the increasing appearance of French words indicative of the advent of a kind of cookery that the Treasurer

probably regarded with little favour. Having, however, to write down the names of the new dishes he contented himself with spelling them after his own phonetic usage. That the general character of the food which he provided remained at the end of his reign essentially what it had been from the beginning will be readily seen by comparing the last *menu* which he prepared with the first, which has already been quoted (p. 26). On July 21st 1774 he gives the following bill of fare in his own handwriting :

Dinner.

Haddock	Skate and soles
Stoved eels	Boiled Beef
2 Plumb puddings	Greens and Collyflower
Beans and bacon	Venison Pasty
Knuckle of Veal	fore quarter of Lamb
2 Ducks	2 dishes pease
2 Cherry tarts	Lambstones &c.

Butter and Cheese.

Dr. Solander, now become Treasurer, was this year active in his introduction of foreigners to the Club. On June 10th he brought the famous Corsican general and patriot, Pascal Paoli. At another dinner his guests were Count Fersen and Mr. Boleman. The former belonged to an ancient Livonian family and had played a conspicuous part in Swedish politics. Again, Solander introduced M. Damashneff from St. Petersburg and Herr von Bülow from Mecklenberg. He several times entertained the Count de Visconti, probably the eminent Italian antiquary to whom the study of Greek art owed so much. Pringle showed attention to two members of the Dutch nobility, Messrs. Meerman and Erb, whom he invited to the Club in summer and again in the winter months. Banks had a trump-card to play in the way of sensation when on 25th August he brought to the Club dinner Omai, a real live young chief from Otaheite, who had been brought back in one of Captain Cook's vessels. This youth was so good-looking, had such gracious manners, and showed so much intelligence that he rapidly became a great favourite in London Society. Boswell has recorded

that Johnson was struck with the elegance of Omai's behaviour, and accounted for it thus: "Sir, he had passed his time, while in England, only in the best company; so that all that he had acquired of our manners was genteel. As a proof of this, Sir, Lord Mulgrave and he dined one day at Streatham; they sat with their backs to the light fronting me, so that I could not see distinctly; and there was so little of the savage in Omai that I was afraid to speak to either, lest I should mistake the one for the other." Fanny Burney wrote that "his manners are so extremely graceful and he is so polite, attentive and easy that you would have thought he came from some foreign court." He was painted in artistic robes by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and engravings of him were in demand all over the country. He dined again twice at the Club this year, the President and Treasurer being in turn his sponsors.¹

Among the English guests Benjamin Franklin was again by much the most frequently seen at the Club and, as before, almost always on the invitation of his close friend, the President. The Marquis of Carmarthen and the Earl of Seaforth dined one evening in company with Franklin, Pringle, Burrow, Cavendish, Banks, Horsley and Solander. Thomas Pennant was a visitor in March and April, and Colonel Roy came more than once in the first half of the year. Dr. Blagden too appeared in the spring and summer. Sir George Shuckburgh was invited to the dinner on June 30, and he was elected into the Royal Society at the close of the year. Another visitor, who was also a prospective F.R.S.—the Rev. Sir John Cullum, sixth baronet, antiquary and vicar of Great Thurlow, was elected into the Society on March 2 in the following year.

¹ The poet Cowper, in apostrophising Omai, seized the occasion to satirise the public that made so much of him.

Gentle savage! whom no love of thee
Or thine, but curiosity, perhaps,
Or else vain-glory, prompted us to draw
Forth from thy native bowers, to show thee here
With what superior skill we can abuse
The gifts of Providence, and squander life.

The Sofa, 633-638.

1775. The Annual General Meeting on July 27th 1775 was attended by

Sir John Pringle, Bart. President.

Sir James Burrow
Sir Joseph Ayloffe
Daniel Wray
Charles Morton M.D.
Edward Hooper
Nevil Maskelyne M.D.
James Stuart
Robert Burrow
William Watson M.D.
Alexander Aubert

Samuel Wegge
Rev. Samuel Horsley D.C.L.
Richard Warren M.D.
John Walsh
John Turton M.D.
William Russell
William M. Godschall
Hon. Henry Cavendish
Daniel C. Solander. Treasurer

The Treasurer stated that the expenses since last audit had amounted to £16 12s. 8d., which included £13 17s. 2d. for a stove in the Club-room and £1 14s. 6d. for deficiencies in attendance, leaving in his hands a balance of £1 8s. 11d. The total attendance since last Anniversary had been 864, the number of members being 558 and of visitors 306.

For a second year in succession it was announced at this meeting that during the past year no vacancy had arisen in the membership either from death or absence.

The following resolutions were passed :

“ Dr. Solander was desired to wait upon Mr. Colebrooke and acquaint him that the members of this Society are truly sensible of his many great services to the Society during the long time he has favoured them with officiating in the office of Treasurer, and that They hope he will still continue to give his kind assistance whenever his health will permit.

Resolved : That for the future the Landlord of this house be allowed 4 shillings for the ordinary, including Wine, and 2 pence to the waiter.

Ordered : That no strangers be admitted two successive Thursdays.

Sir John Pringle Bart. President
Dan. Ch. Solander. Treasurer.”

The hope that Josiah Colebrooke might still be able to give his assistance was not fulfilled. His name does not appear in any dinner list after his resignation, and he probably never again attended. That he was able to use his

pen for some months is shown by his last published paper ("On a coin of Robert, Earl of Gloucester"), which is dated from Budge Row, 14th February 1775. He died on the 16th August following.

The new Treasurer was evidently encountering the same difficulties as his predecessor in calculating for how many it would be most convenient and economical to provide dinner. Sir John Pringle must have astonished the members by the party which as President he invited to the dinner on 12th January 1775. It consisted of no fewer than thirteen guests, who included the Count de Salis, Wang a Tong, a Chinese, Lord Seaforth, Thomas Pennant, Lord Mahon, Charles Greville, Dr. Blagden and others. Banks brought Omai, Dr. Solander had Colonel Roy, and Dr. Morton introduced Sir Lucius O'Brien. There were altogether thirteen members and twenty visitors. The Treasurer found that although the numbers who attended up to August continued to be satisfactory they rapidly diminished thereafter. The number of diners provided for was twelve, but with a constant demand on his Fund he was constrained on 14th September to order commons for ten only during the rest of the recess of the Royal Society. And yet no sooner was this change made than the numbers went up beyond the new limit, and no demand on the Fund was required until almost the end of December.

An agreeable collocation of guests and members took place on May 4th, when the President invited among his guests Boswell and Blagden; Solander brought the Count de Clary and Charles Greville, and William Russell introduced Alexander Tytler the historian, and when among the members present were Henry Cavendish, Joseph Banks and Dr. Horsley. Captain James Cook dined twice with the Club in the course of the year. Another guest, a familiar figure in the society of his day, was John Paradise, son of the English consul at Salonica in Macedonia, where he was born. He was educated at Padua, but received the degrees of M.A. and D.C.L. from the University of Oxford. He lived most of his life in London. He was one of the circle

of Samuel Johnson's friends and a member of the little evening club established by the sage in 1783 at the Essex Head in Essex Street. According to Boswell's account of him he was "distinguished not only by his learning and his talents, but an amiable disposition, gentleness of manners, and a very general acquaintance with well-informed persons of almost all nations."

A foreigner familiar with England, who dined with the Club this summer, was the Portuguese Jean Hyacinthe de Magalhaens or Magellan, descendant of the navigator who discovered the Straits of Magellan. He pursued researches in physics, and had some skill in the invention and improvement of philosophical instruments. His familiarity with the languages of southern Europe led to his being chosen as travelling companion to young men of wealth. He appears to have come to England in 1764 and to have spent much of his later life in England. He was made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1774. He died at London in 1790.

The most interesting foreign visitor this year, and indeed one of the most remarkable men that ever appeared at the table of the Club was Rudolf Eric Raspe. His career formed an almost incredible romance, the main outlines of which may appropriately find a place in this volume. Born in Hanover in 1737, he studied at Göttingen and Leipzig with such success that he was early known as a versatile scholar, with a strong bent towards some branches of natural history and the study of antiquities. He wrote with ease in Latin, French and English, and published translations of the Philosophical works of Leibnitz, of part of Macpherson's "Ossian," and of Percy's "Reliques." His reputation led to his appointment in 1767 as Professor of Archaeology at the Maurice College, Cassel, and keeper of the valuable collection of coins, antique gems and minerals belonging to the Landgrave of Hesse. Being fond of mineralogy and the geognosy of the day, he employed his pen on these subjects. Thus in 1769 he sent to the Royal Society of London a Latin essay in which he was the first to suggest that the elephants whose bones are found in boreal climates



SIR CHARLES BLAGDEN, M.D.

Sec. R.S., 1784.

actually lived there, being specially fitted to withstand cold—a conclusion which has long been acknowledged to be well-founded. The Society printed his essay in the *Philosophical Transactions*, and on 1st June 1769 elected him one of its Fellows on the foreign list.

After Raspe had been commissioned to travel in Italy for the purpose of collecting gems and antiques for the Hesse-Cassel cabinet, it was found that he had abstracted valuable objects from the collection of which he had charge and sold them, receiving more than 2000 rixdollars for his thefts. Before legal proceedings were taken against him he absconded. An advertisement was issued for the arrest of Councillor Raspe, “a long-faced man with small eyes, crooked nose, red hair under his stumpy periwig and a jerky gait, wearing sometimes a scarlet coat embroidered with gold, sometimes suits of black, blue or grey.” Traced to the Harz he was caught there in March 1775, but escaped from custody and fled to Britain, where he lived till his death nineteen years later.

He probably reached London early in August. In those days news travelled slowly, and as his case had not come before a public court, he could probably count on a good start before tidings of his doings could arrive. He appears to have gone boldly to the rooms of the Royal Society and claimed the privileges due to a Fellow of that illustrious body. Sir John Pringle, the President, as in duty bound, treated him with courteous hospitality and invited him as his guest to dine with the Royal Philosophers on August 10th. He there met Henry Cavendish, Maskelyne, Dr. Watson, Solander with two Swedish guests, Aubert and some others, making a party of thirteen in all. Again on the 31st of the month Pringle brought him to the Club, and no doubt showed him many other marks of attention of which no record remains. No further trace of his presence has been found in any of the dinner-registers.

Though the tidings of his misdeeds might be slow in reaching England, they could not fail to arrive at last. On the 7th December 1775, “authentic information” came

before the Council of the Royal Society in the form of "undoubted documents" that "divers frauds and gross breaches of trust" had been committed by one of the foreign members, lately librarian to the Landgrave of Hesse. The President and Council came to the formal resolution "that it would be highly reproachful to the Society, that he should any longer continue a member thereof; and therefore do recommend to the Society that the said Rudolf Eric Raspe be ejected." This recommendation was carried out by the Society at the ordinary meeting of the same date, before the admission of the strangers of the day. And yet, strange to say, the officials neglected to efface Raspe's name from the printed list of members. It has remained there ever since and still appears in the last revised edition of the Society's "Record" published in 1912.

It has been stated that the delinquent threatened to retaliate by exposing blunders in the *Philosophical Transactions*, in the spirit of John Hill already mentioned (p. 29). But he does not seem to have gone further than a threat. He did not leave London for some years, probably considering that he had a better chance of making a livelihood there than anywhere else now open to him. His expulsion from the Royal Society and his acts that led to it do not appear to have become widely known; at least they did not prevent him from obtaining a certain amount of occupation for his pen, on the slender profits of which, together with what he could earn by giving lessons in German, he eked out a precarious living. The year after his arrival in London he published in English a little volume entitled "An account of some German Volcanos and their Productions," which, though somewhat crude, was in advance of the general opinions of his fellow-countrymen, who, following Werner, regarded basalt as a rock of aqueous origin, and volcanic phenomena as due to the subterranean combustion of seams of coal, so that no volcanoes could arise until after the appearance of vegetation on the surface of the globe. Raspe likewise translated some German mineralogical works. But the sales of such books would

be small, and the sums to be paid him for them by the enterprising booksellers would be in proportion.

During the years which he passed in London he devoted some time to an enquiry into the history of oil-painting, and visited various places in England where the earliest paintings in the country were preserved, among others the collection of the Earl of Pembroke at Wilton House and that of Mrs. Gordon at Rochester. He in April 1779 consulted the libraries at Cambridge, and while there he discovered a manuscript of Theophilus, a German monk who probably wrote in the tenth century. He learnt that Horace Walpole had written on the history of painting, and as the MS. contained matter on this subject which could not but interest that dilettante, he found means to obtain an introduction to him. Writing in January 1780 to his friend Mason, Walpole referred to the manuscript, written, he says, "in infernal Latin," but containing statements which strongly supported opinions which he himself had publicly expressed;—"there is a Dutch sçavant come over, who is author of several pieces so learned that I do not know even their titles; but he has made a discovery in my way, which you may be sure I believe, for it *proves* what I had suspected and hinted in my *Anecdotes of Painting*, that the use of oil-colours was known long before Van Eyck. Mr. Raspe, the discoverer, is poor, and I shall try to get subscriptions to enable him to print his work, which is sensible, clear and unpretending." Three months later he wrote to the same correspondent: "I had begun to gather subscriptions, but poor Raspe is arrested by his tailor. I have sent him a little money and he hopes to recover his liberty, but I question whether he will be able to struggle on here."¹ In the end the idea of subscriptions was given up and the work was published at Walpole's own expense. It appeared in London in the year 1781 as a single quarto, containing not only the author's own essay but the text of two MSS. probably of

¹ Mrs. Toynbee's Edition of *Walpole's Letters*, xi. pp. 107, 151, 336, 363, 381, 433.

the thirteenth century which he had unearthed at Cambridge. It is a learned treatise and shows a remarkable range of acquaintance with the literature of the subject. The general scope of the volume may be gathered from the title-page, which is given below.¹

We learn no more from Walpole of the learned and industrious but unfortunate author. He probably obtained little or nothing for the copyright of his manuscript. Literature proving an unremunerative occupation, he seems now to have bethought him of turning his mineralogical skill and experience to some account as a means of livelihood. He wandered down to Cornwall, and eventually obtained there a situation as store-keeper and assay-master at the mines of Dolcoath. How long he remained there is not known, but he appears during his Cornish time to have taken up his pen once more and to have struck off the most successful of all his writings, one which under more favourable circumstances would have yielded him fame and a competence for life. He wrote in English a little *jeu d'esprit*, embodying and expanding the extravagant boastings of a certain Baron Münchhausen of Bodenwerder, near Hanover, on the Weser, of whom he had doubtless heard much in his younger days in Germany. With the title of "Baron Münchhausen's Narrative of his Marvellous Travels and Campaigns in Russia," it was published in London in 1785, without the author's name. In three years no fewer than five editions were issued in this country, a considerable addition of inferior merit being added to Raspe's original text. We can hardly suppose that in those days he would receive more than a modest sum from the booksellers who disposed of the book in such numbers. In 1787 it was translated into German and published under the auspices of the poet Bürger. This and other translations into the various

¹ "A critical Essay on Oil-Painting, proving that the art of painting in Oil was known before the pretended discovery of John and Hubert Van Eyck; to which are added Theophilus de Arte Pingendi, Eraclius de Artibus Romanorum, and a review of Farinator's Lumen Animæ, by R. E. Raspe, London: printed for the Author, by H. Goldney and sold by T. Cadell in the Strand. MDCC.LXXXI."

languages of Europe passed through innumerable editions. The name of the writer whose little volume had attained such world-wide popularity was never known in his lifetime. Only in 1824 was its authorship by Raspe divulged by Karl von Reinhard, the friend of Bürger and editor of his works, who doubtless had his information from Bürger himself.

From Cornwall Raspe migrated to Scotland. He spent several years at Edinburgh, where he was engaged to write a detailed Catalogue of James Tassie's extensive collection of pastes and impressions from ancient and modern engraved gems.¹ This elaborate work, filling two quarto volumes with 57 plates, was published in 1791, and is by far the most important of Raspe's writings. The introduction, written in English and French on opposite pages, is a learned treatise, showing a remarkably wide knowledge of the history of the subject, and valuable for its bibliographical references. One cannot but regret that a writer who was capable of such an effort should have lost the opportunity of devoting his life to steady research. He concludes with a modest estimate of the worth of his performance: "It is a work rather of labour and good eyes than of genius. I propose no reputation by it and I hope I shall lose none." That he had some to lose is shown by the occurrence of his name as that of "a foreigner of merit and reputation" in a "Catalogue of 500 celebrated authors of Great Britain. London, 1788," and by his inclusion in the list of people of note whose portraits Tassie had modelled and cast in "his beautiful hard white enamel paste."

During his sojourn in Edinburgh Raspe was able to make excursions into the Highlands, where he had the opportunity of turning his knowledge of mineralogy to account. He detected traces of various ores and useful minerals, and in the *Scots Magazine* for October 1789 (p. 576) there is

¹ The title-page may be quoted here:—"A descriptive Catalogue of a General Collection of Ancient and Modern engraved Gems, Cameos, as well as Intaglios, taken from the most celebrated Cabinets in Europe, and cast in coloured Pastes, white enamel and Sulphur by James Tassie, Modeller: Arranged and Described by R. E. Raspe and illustrated with copper-plates. *Unde prius multis velarunt tempora Musae.* London 1791."

the following notice of his researches, from information doubtless supplied by himself :

“ Mr. Raspe, the German mineralogist, after having examined the greater part of the Western Highlands and Islands, has at last begun his survey in Caithness. He has been very successful in discovering mines of copper, lead, iron, cobalt, manganese &c. and he will probably publish an account of these discoveries. It must give the greatest satisfaction to every friend to the prosperity of the Highlands to understand that the marble of Tiree, belonging to the Duke of Argyll, the lead in the property of Lord Breadalbane, and the iron on the estate of Glengarry, are likely to turn out of great value and importance. From Sutherland he has brought specimens of the finest clay, and there is reason to hope that this country will yet make a figure as a mining district, there being every symptom of coal, and a very promising vein of heavy spar having been discovered. On the whole, it is believed that the tour of this ingenious traveller will turn out of great public, as well as of private utility, and will do credit to those who have promoted it.”

There is evidence that Raspe continued his examinations of the Highlands.¹ When he extended them into Caithness he was not long in presenting himself to Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster, a most excellent philanthropic and patriotic country gentleman who was all his life engaged in furthering enterprises that offered a prospect of advantage to Scotland, and who believed that even on his own land some useful minerals might yet be found. He gave Raspe a hospitable welcome and employed him to make trials at a place where indications of mineral veins had already been found. Installed at Thurso Castle the German prospector traversed the district in search of ores, while at the same time, by his wide range of knowledge and experience and his lively sense of humour he gave pleasure to his host and the family circle. “ For a time the investigation gave the proprietor good hopes. Masses of a bright heavy mineral were brought to Thurso Castle as foretastes of what was coming. But in time the bubble burst, and it was fully concluded by Sir John Sinclair that the ores which appeared were all brought from Cornwall and planted in the places where they were found. Miss Catherine Sinclair, his accom-

¹ *Scots Magazine*, January 1791, p. 43.

plished daughter, used to say that she had often heard her father relate the story, but never with the slightest trace of bitterness. On the contrary, both he and Lady Sinclair always said that the little loss they made on the occasion was amply compensated by the amusement which the mineralogist had given them while a guest in their house."¹ These Caithness doings were of course well known all over Scotland, and as Robert Chambers has pointed out, "they correspond with those of Dousterswivel in the *Antiquary*. There is every reason to believe that Raspe gave Scott the idea of that character, albeit the baronet of Ulbster did not prove to be so extremely imposed upon as Sir Arthur Wardour, or was in any other respect a prototype of that ideal personage."² But the author of the Waverley Novels could have known nothing of the real standing of Raspe, who was a singularly gifted and widely cultivated man, albeit not quite honest, while the Adept in the *Antiquary* was a vulgar and ignorant cheat.

Of Raspe's subsequent career little has been recovered. He appears to have continued to practise his calling of mining expert, and to have gone to try his luck in Ireland. It was there at Muckcross that he was carried off by scarlet fever in the year 1794. I have been at some pains to collect such information concerning him as can now be gathered. He was unquestionably a singularly accomplished man, with an undoubted love of science, an insight which led him to anticipate some of the geological discoveries of later times, and withal a keen sense of humour, but unhappily without the moral ballast that would have enabled him to make the full use of his many gifts. I make no apology for narrating at length this episode in the Annals of the Club regarding a man whom the Royal Society thought worthy of receiving its Fellowship and the Royal Society Club welcomed to its table.

¹ Robert Chambers in his *Book of Days*, vol. ii. pp. 85, 86.

² Scott in his Preface to the *Antiquary* says with regard to Dousterswivel and his doings, "the reader may be assured that this part of the narrative is founded on a fact of actual occurrence."

1776. At the General Meeting on July 25, 1776, which was attended by twenty members, with Sir John Pringle in the Chair, the Treasurer reported that the expenses for the past year amounted to £3 10s., which included £2 8s. for deficiencies in attendance, leaving a balance against the Club of £1 6s. 4d. He announced the death of Josiah Colebrooke. He stated also that the Hon. Daines Barrington and Josiah Warner had not attended the Society for more than a year. Three vacancies were accordingly declared and these were filled up by the election of the Rev. Richard Kaye, Rev. Michael Lort and Dr. Patrick Russell.

Dr. Kaye, afterwards a baronet, and Dean of Lincoln, was elected into the Royal Society in 1765.

The Rev. Michael Lort, B.D., became F.R.S. in 1766. He was an accomplished antiquary, and as Senior Fellow of Trinity College, and Regius Professor of Greek at Cambridge, he held an important position in the University life of the day. He was appointed Prebendary of St. Paul's in 1780.

Dr. Patrick Russell was not F.R.S. at the time of his election into the Club, and he did not attain that position until 27th November 1777. Born in Edinburgh and receiving there a medical education he went out to the East as a young man, became physician to the English factory at Aleppo, where he succeeded his brother (*ante*, p. 79). After making important observations on the plague he returned to this country in 1772 and settled in London as a physician. In 1781 he again went to the East, and in November 1785 was appointed botanist or naturalist to the East India Company in the Carnatic, where he made large natural history collections. In 1791 he published an important "Treatise on the Plague" in two quarto volumes. Five years later he began the publication of a large folio work on Indian Serpents, and he likewise published two folio volumes of descriptions and figures of two hundred fishes collected by him in Vizagapatam. After his return to the East India Company's service in 1781, when he found that his stay abroad would be prolonged, he desired

to resign his membership so as to make way for some one who could attend. Eventually this desire was complied with. When he finally came back to England he applied to be readmitted a member, and this request was also conceded at the annual general meeting in 1789.

At the General Meeting in 1776 a Committee was appointed to consider the question of the number to be provided for at the dinners. This Committee met on 22nd August and drew up a Report which was adopted at a special meeting of the Club on 19th September, at which Mr. Cox, the vintner, being called in, expressed his acceptance of the terms proposed. It was then ordered that the recommendations of the Report should take effect from the 7th November next. The Report recommended :

“ That a dinner be provided for such a number as the Treasurer shall order from time to time ; and if the number of the company shall exceed the number provided for, the dinner shall be made up with the best beef-steaks, mutton-chops, lamb-chops, veal-cutlets or pork-steaks, instead of made-dishes or any dearer provisions.

That three shillings per head be allowed for each person in company for Eating, strong and small beer.

That two pence per head be allowed for the Waiter.

That Mr. Cox shall buy such wine for the use of the Society as the Treasurer shall think proper, at a price not exceeding £45 per pipe or Eighteen pence a bottle, which shall have a particular seal upon the cork ; and that Mr. Cox may charge for what shall be drunk at the rate of two shillings and sixpence a bottle, and may also charge in the Bill for any other wine or spirituous liquor that may be called for.”

The attendance at the dinners was remarkably good throughout this year. Even during the autumn months, when the number to be provided for at each dinner was fixed at ten, there was never once a deficiency from 11th July to 26th September. During that interval gifts of venison came in rapid succession, and there would seem to have been always a company sufficiently large to do justice to the fare.

In accordance with the regulations Joseph Planta, who was elected Secretary of the Royal Society on 30th November this year, became *ex officio* a member of the Club.

He was born in the Grisons (1744), came with his father to London, and eventually succeeded him as assistant librarian at the British Museum. He was this year promoted to be keeper of manuscripts in that institution, and in 1799 became principal librarian. He had been elected into the Royal Society in February 1774.

No foreign guests of special distinction appeared at the dinners of the Club this year. Omai, still an object of interest, came several times in the first half of the year. The President, who obviously had a liking for what have been called "sensational exhibits," brought with him on 28th March Thayendanegea, a Mohawk chief. Sir James Porter introduced Baron Neny, probably the eminent Belgian minister at whose house the literary society met out of which grew the Royal Academy of Brussels. A fortnight later Boswell met this foreigner, whom he describes as "a Flemish nobleman of great rank and fortune," and whom he introduced to David Garrick.

The English guests were numerous and varied in their quality. Captain Cook dined eight times in the first half of the year. The second Viscount Palmerston dined with the Club on 29th February and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in the following November. On the 18th April General Paoli and his enthusiastic admirer Boswell were guests. Sir James Hall, the father of Experimental Geology, and the intimate friend of Hutton and Playfair, was twice brought to the Club by the President. Among the other visitors may be mentioned Sir William Hamilton, of Neapolitan, Vesuvian and Etnean reputation; Robert Mylne, the well-known architect and engineer; Dr. John Roebuck, who among his other inventions founded the Carron iron-works, famous for their manufacture of ordnance and iron-work of all kinds; Colonel Charles Vallancey, antiquary and officer of engineers, who became F.R.S. in 1786; Sir Robert Barker of the East India Company's service, who had been provincial commander-in-chief in Bengal and was a member of Parliament; Lord Hampden, formerly Minister at the Hague, subsequently Commissioner

of Revenue in Ireland, and elected into the Royal Society in 1764.

1777. The Annual General Meeting in 1777, held on July 31st, was attended by twenty-one members, Sir John Pringle, President, presiding. The Treasurer's financial statement showed that the expenses incurred since the last audit amounted to £6 6s. 7d., of which £4 16s. 7d. were due almost entirely to deficiencies of attendance. The Treasurer reported the death of Sir James Porter and Dr. Matthew Maty, and mentioned that Mr. Fauquier and Mr. Iremonger had not attended for more than a year. As Dr. Maty was an *ex officio* member, his death caused no vacancy in the ordinary membership. The meeting declared that three vacancies had arisen. These were filled up by ballot, when the following candidates were elected : Alexander Dalrymple, Sir William Musgrave, Bart., and Colonel William Roy.

Alexander Dalrymple, son of Sir James Dalrymple, Bart., of Hailes, began as a writer in the service of the East India Company. When he had shown his cartographic skill by constructing a chart of the northern part of the Bay of Bengal, he was appointed by the Company to be its Hydrographer. In 1795 he was made Hydrographer to the Admiralty. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1771.

Sir William Musgrave, Bart., was made F.R.S. in March 1774.

Colonel (better known by his subsequent title of General) William Roy had served under the Duke of Cumberland in Scotland in 1746, and having shown remarkable powers as a cartographer, was employed in the construction of a military map of Scotland. After filling various military appointments he was appointed Surveyor-General of the Coasts, and Engineer of Military Surveys for Great Britain. His promotion to be major-general took place in 1781 and he was made Director and Lieutenant-Colonel of Royal Engineers in 1783. For his work in connection with the determination of the relative positions of the Observatories of Paris and Greenwich, the Royal Society awarded its Copley Medal to him in 1785. His great treatise on the

"Military Antiquities of the Romans in Britain," with all its careful plans of camps and other relics of the Roman occupation of the country, is one of the classics in its subject. He had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1767.

As this was the last continuous year of the presidency of Sir John Pringle reference may be appropriately made here to the extraordinary assiduity with which he discharged the duties of chairman of the Club. He was hardly ever absent from a dinner and he almost always brought two or three guests. We have seen that on one occasion he introduced no fewer than thirteen, thus boldly setting at naught the rule that had been made a few years before to the effect that no member should introduce more than two guests at a time. Moreover his guests were often men of marked distinction in rank or in achievements. As shown in the foregoing pages he liked to bring now and then some unlooked-for human rarity to the Club—a Pacific island cannibal, or an Indian chief or a Chinese mandarin, but above all it was evidently his greatest pleasure to introduce a thoroughly clubbable and accomplished man. His solicitous friendship for Benjamin Franklin deserves lasting remembrance. Pringle being a Scot, his heart naturally warmed towards his fellow-countrymen. He liked to have from time to time beside him at the table a Scottish laird, or a judge from the Court of Session, or a Professor from one of the northern universities, or an advocate who could converse well and give him the latest information about the trend of affairs north of the Tweed.

The attendance of the members at the dinners continued this year to be so well maintained that from the beginning to the end of the year only ten deficiencies had to be made up out of the fund. But the Treasurer having fixed Christmas day as one of the dates for the weekly dinner there came to the Club only three members, and he himself was not one of them. He had consequently to make good out of his Fund no fewer than nine deficiencies from a single dinner. Of the three who appeared, Henry Cavendish, as might be expected, was one. About this time he and the

President ran a kind of neck-and-neck race in regard to the number of their weekly attendances, but Cavendish always kept slightly ahead. During this year the President was present at 48 meetings, Cavendish at 49. It should also be noted that some of the older, and even two of the original members were remarkably assiduous in their duty to the Club. Thus the average annual attendance of Sir James Burrow for five years from 1773 to 1777 was 26 and that of Dr. William Watson for the same period was 22.

The foreign guests of the Club this year included no names of great note. Most of them appear to have been Scandinavian friends of Solander. One of these, Mr. Alströmer, may have been the Swedish botanist of that name, a pupil of Linnaeus, who named after him a Peruvian plant (*Alströmeria*), the seeds of which he had been able to send to the great naturalist. John Alströmer was elected into the Royal Society on 24th December in 1778. M. de la Chapelle, invited by the President, may possibly have been the French mathematician Jean Baptiste de la Chapelle who was made F.R.S. as far back as 1747 and who would now be not far short of 70 years of age.

Of the English visitors many have already been noticed in the records of previous years. The President brought his friend and Berwickshire neighbour, Sir James Hall, three times to dinner. Sir William Hamilton of the *Campi Phlegraei* again appeared twice in the winter months. General Paoli, the exile, was hospitably entertained several times. The new names do not include any that call for special notice.

1778. The yearly General Meeting, held in 1778 on 30th July, was attended by seventeen members, Sir John Pringle, Bart., in the Chair. It was announced that since the last anniversary there had been no death of any member nor had anyone forfeited his place by non-attendance, but the Fund was once more depleted and a debt of upwards of £6 was due to the Treasurer. It was accordingly resolved that a contribution of 5s. should be made by each member. Sir John Pringle was continued as President, but in the

course of the summer he let it be known that he contemplated soon resigning his Presidency of the Royal Society, and consequently would no longer fill the chair at the dinners of the Club. He retired from the Presidency on St. Andrew's Day this year, when at the annual election Joseph Banks was chosen to succeed him. Another change in the membership of the Club arose from the election of Paul Henry Maty as one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society. Mr. Banks, already a member of the Club, took the Chair as its President on December 3rd, and Mr. Maty was introduced on the 15th of the month as one of the *ex officio* members.

Among the foreign guests entertained at the Club during this year were Prince Gonzaga di Castiglione, Count Colonna, and Baron Nolcken the envoy from Sweden, who had been elected into the Royal Society on 8th May 1777. Dr. Ingenhousz reappeared in the winter and dined several times. Mr. Alströmer, also, was again a guest. But perhaps the most interesting visitors from abroad were two Italians who had been sent by their Government on a mission to study museum arrangements and other scientific matters. The elder, Padre Felice Fontana, noted as a naturalist, was Professor in the University of Pisa and author of various contributions to physiology. It was on his appointment as Director of the Museum of Natural History at Florence that he was deputed to gain information in France and England. His companion, the Baron Fabroni, was then a young man of six-and-twenty. He was commissioned by the Grand Duke Leopold to study the discoveries which in the west of Europe were so augmenting the domain of science. Though not himself a discoverer, he made himself conversant with the state of different branches of science, and had such a faculty of exposition that he could at any time discourse with clearness and charm upon any subject to which he had given attention.

Among the English visitors James Boswell again appears. There occurs also the name of Admiral Campbell. He was probably the same who was this year promoted to be vice-admiral, and who had sailed round the globe with Anson

and had been in constant service for more than thirty years. He was made Governor of Newfoundland in 1782 and held the appointment for four years. Another English guest was Charles Hutton, eminent as a mathematician, Professor of Mathematics at Woolwich and Copley Medallist. He became F.R.S. in 1774 and was elected Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society at the beginning of 1779. He was the ostensible subject of violent dissensions in the Royal Society a few years later. It may be mentioned that among the visitors this year the name of James Lind, M.D., occurs. As a young Edinburgh physician of promise, with strong scientific tastes, especially towards astronomical pursuits, he was taken by Banks as one of his companions in the expedition to Iceland in 1772. Subsequently he settled in Windsor as a medical man, and was appointed physician to the Royal household there. He became one of the pleasant social circle which Fanny Burney gathered around her when she lived at the Court in Windsor. In the early days of her acquaintance with him that lively diarist thus described him. "He is married and settled here, and follows, as much as he can get practice, his profession; but his taste for tricks, conundrums, and queer things, makes people fearful of his trying experiments upon their constitutions, and I think him a better conjurer than a physician; though I don't know why the same man should not be both."¹ Dr. Lind was elected into the Royal Society on the 18th December 1777, and on the 8th of the following January dined with the Club on the invitation of the Astronomer Royal.

¹ *Diary and Letters of Madame D'Arblay*, vol. ii. p. 359.

CHAPTER VI

PRESIDENTSHIP OF SIR JOSEPH BANKS, 1778-1789

1779. THE reign of Sir Joseph Banks at the Royal Society extended over the long period of nearly forty-two years—by far the longest tenure of the Presidency in the history of the Society. Though not a man of the first rank in science, he showed an intelligent interest in every branch of research and a keen desire to promote scientific progress. This desire he put into constant practice, his wealth enabling him to give efficient financial aid to many investigations. He was proud of the position in which the choice of the Royal Society had placed him, and he certainly showed his appreciation of the honour done to him by devoting his whole energies, which were immense, to the furtherance of its interests. He had in the course of years accumulated vast collections in natural history, and gathered together an extensive library, both of which were always at the service of students. He kept open house in his mansion in Soho Square and made it an intellectual centre in the metropolis where the latest discoveries and inventions were exposed to the visitors.¹ He took an active part also in the affairs of the Royal Society Club, though without emulating the extraordinary assiduity

¹ Even the bitterly censorious Mathias could not bring a railing accusation against the President. "Sir Joseph Banks," he remarked, "has instituted a meeting at his house in Soho Square, every Sunday evening, at which the literati and men of rank and consequence, and men of no consequence at all, find equally a polite and pleasing reception from that justly distinguished man." *Pursuits of Literature*, 16th (quarto) Edit. p. 298, *note*.



RIGHT HON. SIR JOSEPH BANKS, BART., G.C.B.

Pres. R.S., 1778-1820.

of his predecessor. He took special care to invite to the Club-dinners distinguished men of science from abroad who came to London, also men of mark in every walk of life in this country. By this ample hospitality he did much to sustain the prestige of the Royal Society and its Dining-club.

Paul Henry Maty, who now entered the Club as an *ex officio* member, was the son of Dr. Matthew Maty, and succeeded him in the same positions in the Royal Society and in the Club. After a successful career at Trinity College, Cambridge, he was appointed Chaplain at the English Embassy in Paris. Following in his father's steps he obtained the appointment of assistant librarian at the British Museum in 1776. He had been elected into the Royal Society in 1771 and was chosen Foreign Secretary in the following year, and, as mentioned in the last chapter, was elected one of the two principal Secretaries on 30th November 1778. A few years after that time he took an active part in opposition to Sir Joseph Banks. When this opposition was quenched by the votes of a large majority of the Fellows, Maty resigned his Secretaryship and together with Dr. Horsley, the ringleader of the rebellion, severed his connection with the Club by abstaining from attending its meetings.

The General Meeting in 1779, held on July 29, was attended by seventeen members, Joseph Banks, President, being in the chair. The Treasurer's statement showed that the total expenses of the past year had amounted to £15 17s. 1d., leaving a balance of £2 7s. 9d. due to the Treasurer. It was resolved that each member of the Club should contribute five shillings to the Fund. Two vacancies were announced owing to the death of Matthew Raper and Sir John Mordaunt Cope. These were filled by the election by ballot of Matthew Duane and Sir Robert Barker, Kt. The former, by profession a conveyancer, had antiquarian tastes, and was a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He had become a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1763. Sir Robert Barker spent some years in India in the employment of the East India Company. Having served as

captain of artillery at Chandernagore and Plassey, he was made provincial commander-in-chief in Bengal in 1770. Returning to England, he entered Parliament as member for Wallingford. He had been knighted in 1763. He became F.R.S. in 1775.

The same meeting at which these members were elected passed a resolution "That no person in future be admitted a member of this Society in consequence of any Present he shall make to it." The roll of Honorary Members had gradually diminished, partly from a lessening number of presents of game, and partly, we must hope, from a growing perception that this method of introduction into the Club was objectionable. The only name still retained on the books was that of the Earl of Hardwicke who, ever since, as the Hon. Philip Yorke, he headed the Honorary list, had continued to take an active interest in the prosperity of the Club.

The foreign visitors this year included the Padre Fontana and Baron Fabroni, who were still in this country pursuing the objects of their mission. Dr. Ingenhousz likewise re-appeared and was a frequent visitor throughout the year. General Paoli and Baron de Geer were also occasionally guests. A new face was that of Giuseppe Poli, who dined on 21st January. He was brought up among the Jesuits, studying especially the natural sciences and medicine at Padua. During a tour of the larger towns of Europe, he everywhere made acquaintance with the more prominent men of science. Returning to Naples, he was appointed to teach the cadets and to be tutor to the hereditary Prince who became Francis I. He was elected into the Royal Society on May 6th of this year. Count de Marshall dined several times during the summer. In the winter months there came Baron Podmanctzky and Dr. Czenpinsky; the former was elected into the Royal Society during the following summer.

The English visitors included Lord Palmerston, who next year was elected into the Club, Lord Balgonie, Mr. Paradise, the Hon. Robert Greville and "Mr. Professor Stewart." The last-named gentleman was twice invited during the

summer by the Treasurer. It would be gratifying to believe that the guest on these occasions was the young man who eventually rose to distinction as the philosopher Dugald Stewart. But though he had been engaged in assisting in the teaching at the University of Edinburgh, the future Professor had not yet obtained a chair. On the 10th of June Henry Cavendish invited two guests, Mr. Belchier, the Surgeon of Guy's Hospital whose nerve and courage have already been illustrated (p. 112), and "Mr. Jodrell," as he is styled in the register, who may be conjectured to have been Paul Jodrell, Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, eleventh wrangler, who was elected F.R.S. in 1781, took the degree of M.D. in 1786, was knighted the following year, and went to India, where he became physician to the nabob of Arcot. He died at Madras in 1803.

1780. At the Annual General Meeting held on July 27, 1780, there were present

Sir James Burrow, in the Chair.

Dr. Richard Warren

Sir Joseph Ayloffe

Sir George Baker

Dr. Charles Morton

Alexander Dalrymple

Matthew Duane

Joseph Planta

Robert Burrow

Henry B. Cay

Sir William Musgrave, Bart.

Rev. Michael Lort

William Russell

Paul H. Maty

Dr. Russell

Edward Hooper

Hon. Henry Cavendish

Dr. N. Maskelyne

Thomas Astle

Daniel Wray

Samuel Wegg

Dr. D. C. Solander, Treasurer.

The Treasurer announced that the expenses since last audit amounted in all to £14 3s. 10d., and the receipts to £12 8s. 2d., showing a balance of £1 15s. 8d. due by the Club. It was ordered that each member should pay ten shillings and sixpence towards a supply for the Fund. The total attendance of members and visitors since the last Anniversary was 713, comprising 531 of the former and 182 of the latter.

One member, John Lewis Petit, died during the past year. Four members had not attended for more than a

year; of these, two, the Bishop of Exeter and Dr. Turton, had sent no excuse. The meeting decided that there were three vacancies. These were filled up by ballot, and Dr. Charles Blagden, the Rev. Dr. Anthony Shepherd, and Henry, Viscount Palmerston, were duly elected members.

Charles Blagden, M.D., took his degree of medicine at Edinburgh in 1768, and settling in London acquired a high reputation as a physician. He was evidently a pleasant companion. Boswell records that Johnson, "talking of Dr Blagden's copiousness and precision of communication, said, 'Blagden, Sir, is a delightful fellow.'"¹ He was elected into the Royal Society in 1772, and became one of its secretaries in 1784. He was knighted in 1793. His position as Secretary of the Royal Society made him *ex officio* a member of the Club. But no advantage was taken of this appointment to keep up the full number of elected members. Anyone who, being already an elected member, was appointed to an office that entitled him to be an *ex officio* member practically filled two places in the Club and thus kept out a candidate who might otherwise be admitted. Probably through inadvertence, this position was not realised until 1794, when Dr. Blagden surrendered his place as an elected member. He is alluded to by the sarcastic Mathias as the Secretary of the Royal Society, burdened with the preparation of the *Philosophical Transactions*:

While oer the bulk of these transacted deeds
Prim Blagden pants, and damns them as he reads.²

The Rev. Anthony Shepherd, D.D., Fellow of Christ's College, Cambridge, was appointed Plumian Professor of Astronomy at Cambridge in 1760. He became F.R.S. in 1763.

The second Viscount Palmerston was at this time member for Hastings, and had been a Lord of Admiralty and a Lord of the Treasury. He was fond of travel in Europe and was also eminently sociable, so that he made his house in London a great centre of attraction for the society of his time.

¹ Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, iv. 30.

² *Pursuits of Literature*, 16th 4to Edit. p. 83.

In the summer of this year the meetings of the Club must have been held amid somewhat exciting scenes. It was the time of the protestant riots led by Lord George Gordon, when London was for a short while in the hands of an infuriated mob. Samuel Johnson in a letter to Mrs. Thrale, written on 9th June, has given a vivid picture of what he himself witnessed.

“ An exact journal of a week’s defiance of government I cannot give you. On Tuesday night they pulled down Fielding’s house and burnt his goods in the street. They had gutted on Monday Sir George Savile’s house, but the building was saved. On Tuesday evening, leaving Fielding’s ruins, they went to Newgate to demand their companions, who had been seized, demolishing the chapel. The keeper could not release them but by the mayor’s permission, which he went to ask ; at his return he found all the prisoners released and Newgate in a blaze.

On Wednesday I walked with Dr. Scott to look at Newgate, and found it in ruins, with the fire still glowing. As I went by, the Protestants were plundering the Sessions-house at the Old-Bailey. There were not, I believe, a hundred ; but they did their work at leisure, in full security, without sentinels, without trepidation, as men lawfully employed, in full day. Such is the cowardice of a commercial place. On Wednesday they broke open the Fleet, and the Kings-Bench, and the Marshalsea, and Wood-Street Compter, and Clerkenwell Bridewell, and released all the prisoners.

At night they set fire to the Fleet, and to the Kings-Bench, and I know not how many other places ; and one might see the glare of conflagration fill the sky from many parts. The sight was dreadful. Some people were threatened : Mr. Strachan advised me to take care of myself. Such a time of terror you have been happy in not seeing.

June 12th. All danger here is apparently over ; but a little agitation still continues. We frighten one another with 70,000 Scots, to come hither with the Dukes of Gordon and Argyll, and eat us and hang us, or drown us, but we are all at quiet.”¹

Of this turmoil outside there is no trace in the records of the Royal Philosophers. They dined together at “ The Mitre ” in their usual numbers, and entertained their guests as of old. On the evening of the 8th June fourteen members and three visitors formed the company. One of the latter appears on the dinner list as “ Dr. Scott.” Though there

¹ *Boswell’s Life of Johnson* (Birkbeck Hill’s Edit.), vol. iii. p. 429.

is no indication of who he was, he may have been the eminent lawyer, afterwards known as Baron Stowell, who walked with Johnson next day to see the ruin wrought by the Gordon rioters, and whom Johnson esteemed so highly as to make him one of his three executors and to leave him a little memento of his friendship.¹

Few foreigners appeared at the table of the Club during 1780. The Baron de Nolcken dined there twice in May. He was active this year in his efforts on the part of Sweden to mediate between Great Britain and the States General of the United Provinces. Baron Manteuffel and M. Tiemand dined in the spring, and Herr Wield of Berne and Mr. Bridgen in the autumn. Towards the end of the year a French naturalist appeared, Pierre Augustus Broussonet, who at the early age of 17 had made his mark by the production of a thesis on the respiration of plants. He was only 19 when he arrived in England, where he remained for more than a year engaged upon a treatise in ichthyology. He was a frequent guest of the Club during his stay. The friends whom he made here must have watched with keen interest his subsequent career :—how first he taught at the Collège de France as the deputy of Daubenton and was elected into the Academy of Sciences ; how during the time of the Revolution he entered the National Assembly and under the Convention was charged with being a Girondist and forced to escape from France ; how he lived successively at Madrid, Lisbon and Morocco ; how under the Empire better days dawned for him and he was appointed French Consul at Morocco ; how driven thence by the plague, he

¹ Sir Henry Holland, who knew Lord Stowell in his later years, has described evenings passed with him in his house in Grafton Street : " The whimsical roll of Lord Stowell's shoulder, when uttering some interlocutory phrase of dry humour, was worth more to the eye than any amount of speech to the ear. His house curiously illustrated the habits of the man, in its utter destitution of all the appliances of luxury or comfort. The furniture was never either changed or cleaned. Year after year I wrote prescriptions there with the same solitary pen—the single one, I believe, in his possession, and rarely used by him after his retirement from public business. I believe the anecdote to be mainly true that Lord Stowell visited most of the *shilling sights* of London, but did not go beyond this price." *Recollections of Past Life*, p. 194.

found his way back to his native Montpellier, where the professorship of botany was conferred upon him, and where at the early age of 46 he died. The Royal Society made him one of its foreign members on 14th February 1782 while he was still living and working in London.

The English visitors this year included Sir Richard Worsley, the seventh holder of his baronetcy. Having filled several appointments in the army, he was made a privy-councillor, and was sent to Venice as British resident there. Travelling extensively in the East, visiting Greece, Asia Minor, Egypt, and the Crimea, he spent much time and energy in gathering antiques of all kinds as he went along. He in this way formed a remarkably valuable collection, of which he published a luxuriously printed and illustrated account with the title of *Museum Worsleyanum*. He owned property in the Isle of Wight, was for some years governor of the island, and wrote a history of it. He was made F.R.S. in 1778.

Other guests were Dr. David Pitcairn, a physician with a large practice in London; "Mr. Wedgwood," probably the famous Josiah, the potter. Lord Monboddo again dined with the Club and many other former guests reappeared.

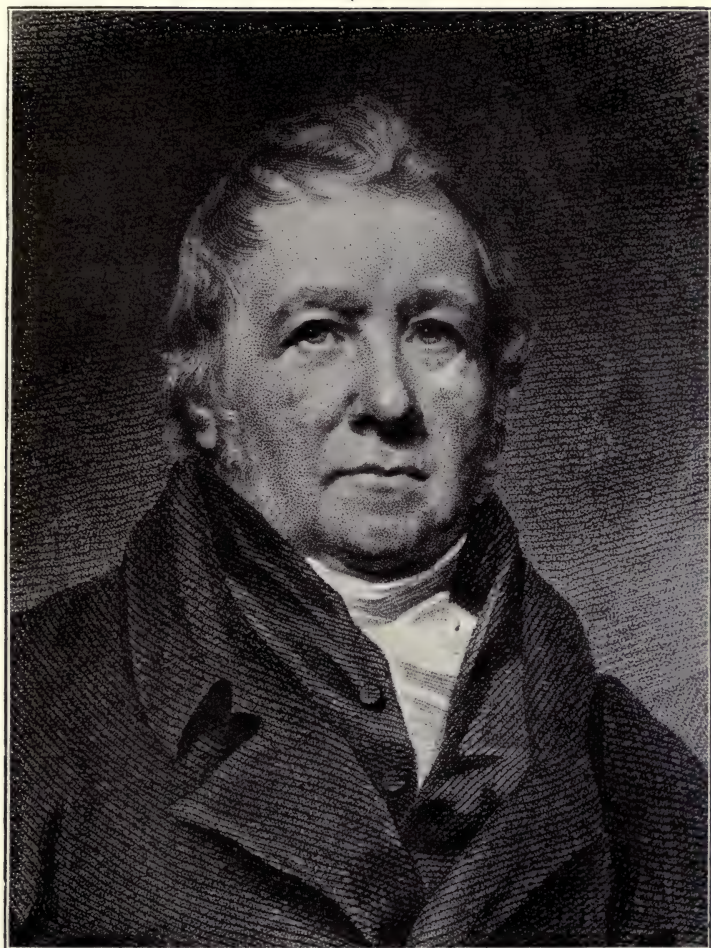
The most serious event in the arrangements of the Club this year was the need to choose another meeting-place. The Royal Society were leaving their house in Crane Court, Fleet Street, where they had been established for seventy years, to apartments in Somerset House, placed at their disposal by the Government. The Society's Anniversary was held in these rooms on November 30 this year. "The Mitre" was felt to be inconveniently distant from Somerset House, and at the meeting on December 14th, to which no guests were invited, the question of shifting to another meeting-place was discussed. It was then resolved that the Club for the future should meet at "The Crown and Anchor Tavern" in the Strand, that the hour of dining should be 4 o'clock precisely, and that the Treasurer should arrange with the master of that Tavern to have the dinner there on the following Thursday. The last two dinners of this year were accordingly held in the new quarters.

1781. The Annual General Meeting in 1781, held on 26th July, was attended by twenty-five members, under the chairmanship of Sir Joseph Banks, who had now been created a baronet. The expenses for the past year were reported to amount to £19 6s. 5d., leaving in the hands of the Treasurer a balance of £6 18s. 8d. The death of Sir Joseph Ayloffe was announced. Two members had not attended for more than a year—John Cuthbert and Rev. Francis Wollaston. The meeting resolved that there were three vacancies. These were filled by the election of the Rev. Samuel Hemming, Robert Banks Hodgkinson and William Seward. The first of these new members became F.R.S. in 1776; the second in 1778. William Seward was an accomplished man of letters, a friend of Samuel Johnson and the Thrale circle, and mingled in the best literary society of the time. He published a valuable work with the title “Anecdotes of some distinguished Persons.” He would introduce into the Club a beneficial literary element. He had become a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1779.

At the same General Meeting it was resolved that the price to be paid by the members for each dinner should be five shillings,¹ that the Treasurer should settle with the Master of the Tavern what proportion of this sum should be given to the waiters, and that the gratuity to the cooks should be discontinued. It was further resolved to rescind the order of July 27, 1775, providing that no stranger should be admitted on two successive Thursdays.

The foreign visitors this year included several who were shortly before or shortly afterwards elected into the Royal Society. Anthony de Wevelinchoven, who dined with the Club on 11th January, became F.R.S. on the 5th April. Charles Maria Lewis, Count of Barbiano and Belgiojoso, was made F.R.S. on 3rd May and was a guest of the Club a fortnight afterwards. Baron Grothusen, M. Cederberg, M. Heydenstam, M. Meuret and others whose names, as written in the registers, cannot be clearly deciphered, were likewise

¹ It was four shillings in 1784 and had previously been three (pp. 162, 171, 182).



PROFESSOR JOHN PLAYFAIR, F.R.S., 1807.

visitors. Of some interest is the occurrence of the name of Professor Charles von Linné on five different occasions in the course of the year. He was the son of the great Linnaeus, whom he succeeded in 1763 as Professor of Botany in the University of Upsala. Less gifted than his father, he had the disadvantage of being hampered with feeble health. He died in 1783 at the age of 42. Among the foreign names there occurs also that of Monsieur St. Germain, with no indication of where he came from or who he was. There was at that time in Europe a notorious personage of this name who in the course of his career is known to have visited London. In the days of Louis XV. he created a great sensation in Paris by his detailed descriptions of scenes and persons that had passed away long before his time, descriptions so vivid and realistic as to lead many people to believe that he must actually have seen and known what he described ; while some of those who met him were even convinced that, though he looked hale and hearty and about forty years of age, he must be at least two thousand years old ! He was credited with possessing an elixir which gave him continuous life and health ; also untold riches which he would at times partially reveal in the form of a wonderful display of precious jewels. He was even believed to have a secret way of making pearls grow, thereby adding at pleasure to his wealth. Travelling over Europe and putting himself in evidence, he everywhere attracted attention, though nowhere to such an extent as in the French capital. He died in Schleswig in 1784.

A number of eminent Englishmen sat at the Club's table this year. Thus Sir Henry Charles Englefield, the antiquary, dined twice. He became President of the Society of Antiquaries, and he had been elected into the Royal Society early in 1778. He is remembered by geologists for the excellent and artistically illustrated volume on the Isle of Wight which he published. The Mr. Braithwaite who dined on January 11th was probably the same individual who was elected into the Royal Society in the spring of the following year. Boswell records that at a dinner given by

Mr. Dilly on May 17th 1781, besides Johnson, Colonel Vallancey and himself, "there was also Mr. Braithwaite, of the Post Office, that amiable and friendly man, who with modest and unassuming manners has associated with many of the wits of the age."¹ On four occasions it is chronicled that "Mr. Stevens" was a guest. He was invited twice by the President, once by the Treasurer, and once by Joseph Planta, Keeper of Manuscripts at the British Museum. He had probably a literary rather than scientific reputation, and he may perhaps have been George Stevens, the Shakespearian editor and friend of Samuel Johnson. William Ogilvie, who was Professor of Humanity at the University of Aberdeen, must have spent most of his autumn holiday in London and been appreciated by the Royal Philosophers, for in August and September he was invited four times to dinner by different members, one of whom was Henry Cavendish. But the most illustrious of all the visitors was William Herschel. In March this year that admirable astronomer discovered the planet Uranus, to which he gave the name of Georgium Sidus. The Royal Society hailed him as one of its Fellows and conferred on him the Copley Medal. Henceforth he appeared frequently at the Club, until in the course of four years he was elected a member. Of visitors who had in previous years accepted invitations there came this year Francis Maseres, Admiral Campbell, Major Rennell and others.

1782. The General Meeting on 25th July 1782 was attended by fifteen members and Henry Cavendish presided. The Treasurer, Dr. Solander, having died suddenly on the 16th of the preceding May, the President of the Club had asked William Russell to undertake the duties of the Treasurership until the time of election in July. It appeared that Dr. Solander had in his hands a balance of £14 5s. 5d. which his executors transferred to the temporary Treasurer, who had a further sum of £2 1s. 6d. received from over-reckonings, so that he started with a balance in hand of £16 6s. 11d.

Two vacancies were caused by the death of the late

¹ *Life of Johnson*, iv. 278.

President (Sir John Pringle) and Dr. Solander. These were filled by the election of Welbore Ellis Agar (F.R.S. 1781), and Sir George Shuckburgh, Bart. (F.R.S. 1774). Sir Joseph Banks was continued as President and William Russell was elected Treasurer. There were no vacancies arising from non-attendance.

The year 1782 was one full of anxiety for Great Britain. Her armies in North America, after six years of conflict, had been generally unsuccessful, the colonists there were in open revolt and had declared their independence of the mother-country. A motion was carried in the House of Commons declaring that all who opposed the termination of the attempt to coerce the colonists into submission were enemies to the King and country. The ministry of Lord North was compelled to resign. That of Lord Rockingham, which replaced it, held office for little more than two months, to be succeeded on the Prime Minister's death by the Cabinet of Lord Shelburne. The country was at war, too, with France and Spain, and France had taken the side of the revolted colonies. There were indeed some gleams of success in the midst of the prevalent gloom. The French fleet under de Grasse had been beaten by Rodney and Hood at Martinique, and the united land and sea forces of France and Spain around Gibraltar had been unable to vanquish the brave Elliot and his valiant garrison. It was time to negotiate for peace, and this was happily accomplished early in the following year.

It was in the midst of this tumult abroad and at home that the Royal Philosophers pursued their accustomed peaceful pursuits, doubtless not without much earnest conference among themselves on the state of the Empire. But they went on with their weekly meetings, observing an unbroken regularity and continuity, as if in a time of profound peace. One of the most important incidents in the history of the Club during this tragic year was the death of its second Treasurer, Daniel Charles Solander. This earnest and loyal officer had been eminently assiduous in looking after the prosperity of the Club. He had been especially

indefatigable in seeking out and inviting to the dinners any scientific foreigners who came to London. His own reputation among Scandinavian naturalists could not fail to draw to him all the northern men of note who came to England. And he invited many of them to the Club.

It was perhaps owing to Solander's influence that the solidity of the Club's diet, which his predecessor had established and kept up for so many years, became somewhat relaxed. The bill of fare grew shorter and simpler. Soup was more often seen on the table. In Solander's last complete year about a third of the dinners began with soup, sometimes of two sorts. Two kinds of fish generally appeared, as before, but the number of joints was curtailed, though beef and mutton still usually accompanied each other. Made-dishes took a more conspicuous place, and vegetables were seen in increasing variety. The "plumb-pudding" which used to be so rampant in Colebrooke's days, was gradually diminished to such a degree that in Solander's last year it made its appearance only at one dinner. These changes were hastened by the transference of the Club to a new habitat, where the use and wont of the Philosophers was not known, and where the accustomed cuisine was probably of a more modern type than it had been at "The Mitre."

The most eminent foreign guest this year was Alessandro Volta, the great Italian physicist, whose reputation had now spread far and wide, attracting students from all parts of Europe to listen to his expositions in the University of Pavia. He was at this time in his thirty-seventh year and had undertaken a tour among the countries of central and western Europe for the chief purpose of coming into personal relations with the men of the day by whom the study of physics was most successfully pursued. He was brought to the Club on May 9th by Joseph Planta; Banks presided, and there were present Henry Cavendish, Lord Palmerston, John Smeaton, Charles Blagden, Alexander Aubert, Sir Robert Barker, Sir George Shuckburgh and others. The great electrical discoveries of Volta's career were still to be made.

Sir Joseph Banks continued to be indefatigable in the discharge of what he regarded as one of the important duties of his office—showing hospitality to distinguished strangers from abroad. Early in this year he introduced the Count Zenobio, a somewhat erratic Italian, born in Venice about 1757, and the representative of an ancient and noble family. To escape from the tyranny and extortion of the Venetian Inquisition, the Count came to England at an early period of his life and invested a great part of his wealth in the English funds. Here he took part in public meetings for any popular object. During the war with France he used to visit the Continent, but meeting with many difficulties in France, he finally betook himself to Portugal in 1806, only to be there suspected, seized, imprisoned and bundled off to Africa. At Tangier he was befriended by the English Consul, and on regaining his liberty returned to France. But he was immediately expelled from that country. Making for Germany he obtained at last an asylum at the Court of the Duke of Brunswick. After the disastrous battle of Jena, the British Government gave him leave to return to England, but by this time he seems to have been soured by his various trials and especially by the sequestration and spoliation of his paternal property by Buonaparte, against whom he fulminated pamphlets in strongly-worded English. He is described as always good-natured, inoffensive in his manners, and ever ready to do a kindness. He died in London in December 1817.

In December the President brought again to the Club the Count of Barbiano and Belgiojoso, and renewed friendly relations with Poland by inviting the Baron de Jeszenak and his brother. In November he entertained a Scandinavian party which included the Swedish Ambassador, Mr. Noring, Mr. Cederberg, Mr. Dryander, and Sir William Herschel. Professor Linné and Dr. Broussonet, being still in the country, were guests again and again in the course of the first half of the year. A few words may be added here with regard to Jonas Dryander, who from this time onward was destined to play a considerable part in the

daily life of the President. He was a Swede, already settled in London, and well-known to Sir Joseph, who chose him to replace Solander in the charge of the large library in Soho Square. Sir Benjamin Brodie has put on record that "this library was to Dryander all in all. Without being a man of science himself, he knew every book, and the contents of every book in it. If anyone enquired of him where he might look for information on any particular subject, he would go first to one shelf then to another, and return with a bundle of books under his arm containing the information which was desired."¹ He prepared a detailed catalogue of this natural history library in five volumes which were published in 1798-1800.

The non-foreign visitors included no men of special prominence who had not dined with the Club before. The Dr. Chelsum invited by the Treasurer on 17th January was probably James Chelsum, D.D., rector of Droxford, Hampshire, who was best known for his attacks on Gibbon's presentation of Christianity in the "Decline and Fall." Sir Abraham Hume, the second and last baronet of that creation, was a collector of minerals, precious stones and old masters. He had been in Parliament and while in that position had in 1775 been elected into the Royal Society. When the Geological Society was founded in 1807 he interested himself in its success, and was chosen one of its vice-presidents. He lived till 1838 and died in his 89th year. Among the guests this year who had already enjoyed the Club's hospitality were Robert Mylne, Major Rennell, Dr. David Pitcairn, Sir Henry Englefield and William Herschel. One name often appears in the dinner lists between the middle of March and the first week in August—that of the "Rev. Mr. Playfair." Under this modest designation may be recognised one of the great leaders of geological science in the early decades of last century. When he first entered the Club he was in the thirty-fourth year of his age, had succeeded his father as minister of the sequestered country parishes of Liff and

¹ *Autobiography*, vol. i. p. 45; London 1865.

Benvie in Forfarshire, and was known at the Universities of St. Andrews and Edinburgh as an accomplished mathematician. His interest in physical researches led him in 1774 to visit Dr. Maskelyne on the mountain Schiehallion in Perthshire, and to share in the labours of that philosopher who was there engaged in his classical experiments on the deflection of the plumb-line. A life-long friendship was there formed between the distinguished Astronomer-Royal and the quiet country clergyman. It happened that in the early part of the year 1782 Playfair was able to spend some months in London, where his first care was to wait on Dr. Maskelyne, who introduced him into the scientific circles of London. He had already published some mathematical papers ; but it was not until some years later, after he had resigned his living in the Kirk and had become Professor of Mathematics at Edinburgh, that he was engaged with James Hutton in geological excursions in Scotland, and gained that personal acquaintance in the field with the phenomena of geology which enabled him to grasp the bearings of Hutton's conclusions, and to write that masterpiece of scientific disquisition, his "*Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory of the Earth*," which did so much to place modern physical geology on a sound basis. The intimate friend of Hutton, Joseph Black and James Hall, he was a singularly genial and universally esteemed member of the remarkable group of men who at this time held up the lamp of science in Scotland.¹ After his return to the north from this visit to London he wrote an account of what he had seen, from which an extract descriptive of his experience of the Royal Society Club may be appropriately given here.

"I was carried by Dr. Solander to dine with the Club of the Royal Society at the 'Crown and Anchor.' Though I met here with many people whom I wished much to see, yet I could not help remarking that there was little pains taken to make the company very agreeable to a stranger ; and I had occasion to pity two or three foreigners that I saw there, who, as well as myself, had sometimes less attention paid to them than their situation required.

¹ It was when Playfair became, in 1783, mathematical professor in Edinburgh University that he joined this group of eminent men.

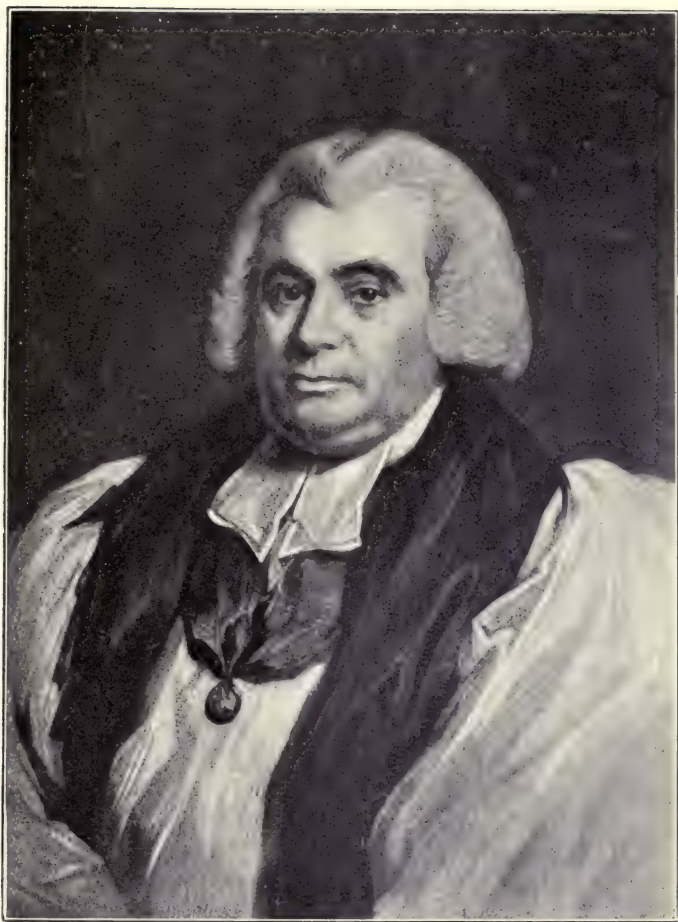
However, this Club improved much on better acquaintance, and during my stay in London I frequented it very much. Here, for the first time, I found some advantage from having written, two years before this, a paper in the *Philosophical Transactions*. I was considered, at least, as a man of some industry, and perhaps the title of a 'Dissertation on Impossible Quantities,' conveyed to many people there an idea of depth much beyond the reality.

"Here I found Mr. Smeaton and Mr. Aubert, the latter a very polite man, and a great consolation to a stranger, amid the inattention of the English philosophers. He is of a French family, a great lover of astronomy, and possessed of the best set of astronomical instruments that belongs, perhaps, to any private man."

"Mr. Cavendish is a member also of this meeting. He is of an awkward appearance, and has certainly not much of the look of a man of rank. He speaks likewise with great difficulty and hesitation, and very seldom. But the gleams of genius break often through this unpromising exterior. He never speaks at all but that it is exceedingly to the purpose, and either brings some excellent information, or draws some important conclusion. His knowledge is very extensive and very accurate; most of the members of the Royal Society seem to look up to him as to one possessed of talents confessedly superior; and, indeed, they have reason to do so, for Mr. Cavendish, so far as I could see, is the only one among them who joins together the knowledge of mathematics, chemistry and experimental philosophy."¹

1783. The General Meeting of the year 1783, held on July 31st, was attended by nineteen members, Sir Joseph Banks presiding. The expenses since the last Anniversary were stated to be £4 10s., of which sum £3 12s. was due to absentees, and there remained in the Treasurer's hands an unexpended sum of £26 10s. 11d. The death of Sir James Burrow was announced. He had been knighted in 1773 in recognition of his public services. His decease left Dr. William Watson as the sole survivor of the little band which in 1743 started the Club and had watched so assiduously over its prosperity. The vacancy caused by Sir James's death was filled by the election of Peter Holford. This gentleman

¹ *Works*, vol. i. Appendix lxxxii-lxxxiv. Mr. Playfair dined twelve times with the Club this summer. He was introduced first by Solander, next by Smeaton, five times by the Treasurer, W. Russell, four times by Dalrymple and once by Aubert. It was obviously the desire of these members to show him every attention. The foreigners whom he met during the year were Dr. Hollingburg, Professor Linné, M. de Vigneulle, and Dr. Dryander.



SAMUEL HORSLEY, D.D., BISHOP OF ST. ASAPH.

Sec. R.S., 1773.

had been elected into the Royal Society as far back as the year 1746. He had occasionally dined at the Club, and must have been well known to all the members.

The attendance at the weekly dinners continued good throughout this year. On the part of one or two of the members it was extraordinarily continuous. In this respect Henry Cavendish still stood far ahead. In 1782 he had only been once absent ; in 1783 only three times ; but next year, as has been already stated (p. 73), he attended every weekly dinner, and there were no fewer than 53 of them in the twelve months.

Foreign visitors were more numerous than usual this year. In January the two Polish noblemen of last year reappeared on the invitation of the President. Next month Sir Joseph Banks brought a diplomatic triad to the Club in the persons of Francesco d'Aquino, Prince of Caramanico, Neapolitan statesman and ambassador to London, Christopher William de Dreyer, the envoy from Denmark, and Baron Nolcken, the well-known ambassador from Sweden. The Venetian and Danish representatives were both elected into the Royal Society in the following June. The President had as his guest on August 7th another foreign nobleman whom many of the members must have been interested to meet again—no other than the Duc de Picquigny, now the Duc de Chaulnes, whom they had met in March 1764. His career in the interval had been worthy of praise. He had retired from the army at the age of 24 and instead of giving himself up to a life of gaiety, as the English dowager, who had misjudged him, would have anticipated, betook himself to practical and useful work in science. In 1775 he proved that the mephitic air in the vats of breweries owes its poisonous qualities to carbonic acid. He made experiments in regard to the rescue of asphyxiated persons by means of volatile alkali, and he tried his remedy on himself. He instructed his valet to carry him out of the chamber when he saw him fall and apply the remedy, in the use of which he had previously been initiated. The brave experimenter was saved in time from becoming a martyr

to science, and practically demonstrated the efficacy of his discovery. He died in 1793 at the age of 52.

The other foreign visitors included the Marquis de Bien-court, Marquis Durazzo, Professor de Luino of Pavia, and some who were already well-known guests at the Club, such as Count Brühl and Baron de Geer. Among the British guests were two Irish bishops, those of Clonfert and Killaloe, Alexander Tytler, historian, in 1802 appointed to the Scottish bench with the title of Lord Woodhouselee; the Earl of Aldborough, Robert Mylne, architect and engineer, Mr. Frere, probably John Frere, F.R.S., antiquary, who was one of the pioneers in the study of prehistoric flint-implements, Aimé Argand, a Swiss who invented the lamp that bears his name, and others whose names appear for the first time in the dinner lists. Of those who had already been visitors, the Club this year welcomed the return of Thomas Pennant, William Herschel, Sir James Hall, Sir Henry Englefield, and John Paradise.

1784. The year 1784 was ushered in to the Club by representations from the Master of the "Crown and Anchor" Tavern that the arrangements which had been made with him were found by him not to be satisfactory, and he suggested that in order to enable him to give such dinners as the company expected of him some additional charge was necessary. After his interview with the President, the subject was taken into consideration by the Club on 29th January. A small Committee was formed to which the interest of the Society was entrusted and which drew up the following Report :

"Mr. Simkin has made promises of mending the commons so greatly that no person will in future complain of his dinners."

It was accordingly recommended :—

"1st. That he find dinner every Thursday at four shillings for every person that dines, being always allowed to charge for ten, though not so many are present; strong and small beer, cheese, butter and dressing venison included.

2d. That for gentlemen who come too late to dine on what he has provided, he be allowed to charge for what is dressed for them, when fewer than ten are present.

3d. That when gentlemen bring servants, he be allowed to charge one shilling for each servant for dinner, and a pot of porter for each, as proposed by Mr Simkin to the Treasurer.

4th. That when toasted cheese is called for, he be allowed to charge it.

"The Committee recommend that Mr Simkin do fix on a comfortable room that the Club may have every Thursday, and not be moved about from room to room on frivolous pretences; it being understood that, on very extraordinary occasions, the Club will not obstruct his business, but put up with another room for a day on his asking leave."

At the meeting of the Club held two days afterwards, this Report was unanimously agreed to and the new regulations were ordered to come into force on March 4th following.

This rearrangement was finally confirmed at the General Meeting on July 29th. At this meeting the Treasurer reported that he had disbursed £12 10s. 6d. during the past year and had a balance of £20 2s. 11d. in his hands. Two vacancies were announced owing to the death of Daniel Wray, who had been a member since 1744, and that of John Darker. On a ballot John Topham was elected, the second vacancy remaining unfilled.

At the same meeting it was resolved: "That the time for having dinner put on the table every Thursday be altered from four o'clock to half an hour after four, but to be served up precisely to the time, as usual."

The new member of the Club, John Topham, had been elected into the Royal Society in 1779. He was Deputy-Keeper of State Papers, Bencher of Gray's Inn, Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries, Librarian to the Archbishop of Canterbury and author of various antiquarian papers.

The foreign visitors this year formed a numerous and varied company. Taking them in chronological order, Baron Nolcken, the envoy from Sweden, and the Chevalier de Dreyer, the envoy from Denmark, again appeared on the invitation of the President. Sir Joseph also brought a number of new faces from abroad. In June he had at two successive dinners "M. Polteratzky," probably the Russian, Dmitri Poltoratzky, who took a keen interest in agriculture

and introduced into Russia the newest methods of cultivation. In July the President introduced MM. Duzach, Roland, Deu and Lanthenas ; in August MM. Bertier de Sauvigny, de Chateau, and Flandrin. Louis Bénigne-François Bertier de Sauvigny was intendant of the Division (Généralité) of Paris. The outbreak of the Revolution found him at his post, but he was not allowed to remain there. The mob accused him of practices of which he was entirely innocent, seized him at Compiègne, marched him with every form of insult and indignity to the Hotel de Ville where, defending himself with desperation, he fell pierced with wounds. Tearing out his heart and cutting off his head, they carried these bloody trophies on the point of a cutlass through Paris.

Dr. Broussonet of Montpellier reappeared at three dinners in August and September. But the most remarkable assemblage of foreigners this year met at the dinner on Thursday, August 12th. They included some who have been already mentioned—Bertier de Sauvigny, Flandrin, and Broussonet. Of special note in the history of the Club was the presence of Faujas de Saint Fond, the enlightened explorer of the geology of the Vivarais, who had come to this country mainly to visit the basaltic tracts of Scotland, and above all to see Staffa, the marvels of which had been described by Sir Joseph Banks a few years before. He wrote an account of his journey through England and Scotland, and in his narrative gave a graphic description of the dinner of the Royal Society Club which will be cited on a later page at the close of the record of this year. He was accompanied at the dinner by his two travelling companions, Count Andreani of Milan and Mr. Thornton.

The autumn visitors included Count Castiglioni, Dr. Groschke, M. Froggart and Vincenzo Lunardi. The last-named was one of the Secretaries of the Neapolitan legation in London, and suddenly rose to fame by ascending and travelling some distance in an air balloon ; of whom more anon.

The home visitors this year make a long and varied list

largely composed of those who have already appeared in the records of previous years. Among the fresh names are those of Dr. Ussher of Dublin (probably the astronomer who died in 1790), John Hunter, the eminent surgeon and anatomist, the Rev. William Tooke (probably the author who wrote a History of Russia), Lord Kinnaird and Professor Anderson of Glasgow. The last-named guest had been in earlier days an officer in the corps raised to resist the march of the Jacobites from the Highlands under Prince Charles Stuart. He was now Professor of natural philosophy in the University and an active pioneer in educational methods. This liberal-minded man had been elected into the Royal Society as far back as 1759. He entertained Johnson and Boswell on their way back from the Hebrides in 1773.

But probably the guest in whom members of the Club to-day will take most interest was the Rev. John Michell, already alluded to. As far back as 1758 he had been invited by the President and other prominent members, and he usually dined with the Club at least three or four times in the course of the year, especially in the early months, when some engagement appears to have annually called him to London. Fourth wrangler and Fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, he took the degree of B.D., entered the Church and held several preferments in succession. Being Hebraist, Grecian, mathematician, astronomer and geologist, he lectured at the University on the several subjects in this wide range of acquirement. In the spring of 1760 he communicated to the Royal Society a remarkable essay on "Earthquakes," which was far in advance of its time, seeing that it was the first treatise to throw light on the nature of seismic movements. It was probably this epoch-making paper which led a few months later to his election into the Royal Society and to his appointment as Woodwardian Professor of Geology at Cambridge in 1762—a post, however, which he resigned after two years.

His astronomical studies were no less original. He wrote some valuable papers on stellar problems. He was likewise the author of the bold and original invention of the torsion

balance by which the density of the earth could be determined. This apparatus he did not live to put to practical use, but after his death it passed into the hands of Henry Cavendish who, making slight modifications in it, ascertained by its means that our planet is 5.4 times heavier than a globe of water of the same dimensions would be.

Michell was no dryasdust philosopher and unsociable recluse. Fond of music he gave entertainments to his friends, at which it is said that William Herschel in his youth played the violin. These gatherings were sometimes attended by Henry Cavendish. In later years, when Herschel had risen into fame as an astronomer, he and Michell were associated in astronomical studies. Though he never joined the Club as a member, Michell seldom failed to appear at its dinners when, quitting his Yorkshire rectory, he could spend a few weeks in London. During the summer of 1784 he dined seven times with the Club. Two years afterwards, when he passed the months of May and June in the capital, he dined at the "Crown and Anchor" every week, and similar hospitality awaited him as long as he lived. There would almost seem to have been a sort of competition among the members for the pleasure of securing him as a guest, and in this friendly rivalry Henry Cavendish was not infrequently successful.

Western Europe in the year 1784 was greatly excited by the efforts in ballooning which were carried out with partial success in France and England. In the summer of the previous year the brothers Montgolfier at their native town of Annoncy in the Ardèche, had filled a balloon with hot air, and allowed it to rise into the atmosphere, where it reached a height of some six thousand feet and travelled a distance of 2700 feet from where it started. The inventors at first attributed its flotation to the peculiar smoke produced by a mixture of straw and carded wool which they kindled below the opening. It was soon shown, however, that the virtue lay not in the smoke but in the heating and consequent rarefaction of the air inside the balloon by the blazing fire at its orifice. There was obviously always the

serious risk of the balloon catching fire, and several accidents from this cause occurred. Such risks, it was pointed out, could be obviated by filling the balloon with hydrogen, the lightest of gases, the properties of which and the method of its preparation having been accurately described for the first time by Henry Cavendish in 1766. Lunardi, then a man of only five-and-twenty years, after some trials, made a successful ascent in a gas-filled balloon from the Artillery grounds, Moorfields, on 15th September 1784, and descended near Ware in Hertfordshire. It was exactly a fortnight after that date that he dined with the Royal Philosophers.

It is difficult now to understand the fury of enthusiasm which this success roused throughout the British Isles. As Horace Walpole expressed it: "balloons occupy senators, philosophers, ladies, everybody." Wigs, coats, hats, bonnets were named after the Italian aeronaut, and a popular bow of bright scarlet ribbons, which had previously been called a "Gibraltar," from the heroic defence of that fortress, was now termed a "Lunardi." He subsequently made a number of ascents in Scotland. He has been credited with the honour of being the first to make an aerial voyage in this country. He was, however, preceded by a poor man, James Tytler by name, who at Edinburgh, before Lunardi's first ascent in London, made use of the Montgolfier method and the rudest materials. When he found it impossible to carry up with him the source of his heat, he jumped into his car, knocked over his fire stove, rose three hundred feet into the air and travelled a distance of half a mile.¹

Writing towards the end of the year, Horace Walpole thus describes the state of London in regard to ballooning: "This enormous capital that must have some occupation, is most innocently amused with those philosophical playthings, air-balloons. But, as half a million of people, that impassion themselves for any object, are always more childish than children, the good souls of London are much

¹ Chambers, *Book of Days*, II. 346. Readers of Burns will remember his ode to the insect on "Miss's fine Lunardi."

fonder of the *airgonauts* than of the toys themselves. Lunardi, the Neapolitan secretary, is said to have bought three or four thousand pounds in the stocks by exhibiting his person, his balloon, and his dog and his cat, at the 'Pantheon,' for a shilling each visitor. Blanchard, a Frenchman, is his rival, and I expect that they will soon have an air-fight in the clouds, like a stork and a kite."

These words of the owner of Strawberry Hill enforce the contrast between the London of his day and the London of ours. The citizens of the great metropolis are again keenly interested in the navigation of the air. But it is no longer in mere "innocent amusement." The "philosophical playthings" at which Walpole smiled have been succeeded by vessels of war that can be guided through the air as easily as ships can be piloted on the sea—aeroplanes, airships, Zeppelins and the rest. The "air-fight," which he half in jest predicted, is a daily feature of the vast war in which the most powerful nations of Europe are engaged. Even London has been visited by hostile aircraft, which have dropped bombs upon it, with loss to life and property. And from its streets some of the huge airships of the enemy, attacked by British defenders, at heights of many thousand feet, have been seen to descend in sheets of flame to earth or sea. In Walpole's time it was a Frenchman who was looked upon as the natural rival and enemy, but happily French and English are now close allies, leagued together in battle on land, sea and air against an empire which when Walpole wrote had not yet come into existence.

The description given by Faujas de Saint Fond of the Club dinner at which he was present is of special interest as it appears to be the only detailed account by a guest which has survived of a dinner of the Royal Philosophers in the eighteenth century. It may therefore be appropriately quoted here. As an introduction to the Frenchman's narrative it will be of service to quote from the Dinner-register the record which has been preserved there of the Company and of the fare provided for them. The following is an exact transcript of the page on which this record

was inscribed in the somewhat shaky but quite distinct handwriting of William Russell, the Treasurer.

AUGUST 12th, 1784.

Mr. Bertier de Sauvigny . . .	} by Dr. Blagden
M. Flandrin	
Count Andreani	} by Mr. Aubert
Mr. Faujas de St. Fond . . .	
Sr. Henry Englefield	by Dr. Lort
Dr. Usher	} by Dr. Maskelyne
Mr. Thornton	
Professor Anderson, of Glasgow	} by Mr. Russell
Dr. Broussonet, of Montpelier	
Mr. Lloyd	} by Mr. Dalrymple
Mr. Mylne	
Mr. Stephens	by Mr. Astle

THE PRESIDENT.

Dr. Morton	Dr. Blagden
Mr. Hooper	Dr. Lort
Mr. Astle	Mr. Dalrymple
Mr. Topham	Mr. Aubert
Dr. Maskelyne	Dr. Shepherd
Mr. Cavendish	Mr. Russell

DINNER.

Soals	fruit Pye
Chickens Boild	Sallad
Pye	A Lambs head and minced
Bacon and Greens	Collyflower
Cold Ribs of Lamb	Chine of Mutton R ^t .
Veal cutlets	Pye
Potatoes	Soals
Rabbits and Onions	

The following is a translation of the narrative of Faujas de St. Fond :

Dinner at the Academic Club.

" About forty members of the Royal Society have been, for more than twenty-five years, in the habit of dining together sociably in one of the taverns of London. Each member has the right of bringing two guests, whom he chooses, among foreigners or friends of his own acquaintance in the Royal Society. The President may bring a greater number, and can select whoever he pleases for guests.

" We sat down to table about five o'clock. Sir Joseph Banks presided, and filled the place of honour. No napkins were laid

before us ; indeed there were none used ; the dinner was truly in the English style.

" A member of the Club, who is a clergyman (I believe it was the astronomer Maskelyne), made a short prayer, and blessed the company and the food. The dishes were of the solid kind, such as roast beef, boiled beef and mutton prepared in various ways, with abundance of potatoes and other vegetables, which each person seasoned as he pleased with the different sauces which were placed on the table in bottles of various shapes.

" The beef-steaks and the roast beef were at first drenched with copious bumpers of strong beer, called porter, drunk out of cylindrical pewter pots, which are much preferred to glasses, because one can swallow a whole pint at a draught.

" This prelude being finished, the cloth was removed, and a handsome and well-polished table was covered, as if it were by magic, with a number of fine crystal decanters, filled with the best port, madeira and claret ; this last is the wine of Bourdeaux. Several glasses, as brilliant in lustre as fine in shape, were distributed to each person, and the libations began on a grand scale, in the midst of different kinds of cheese, which, rolling in mahogany boxes from one end of the table to the other, provoked the thirst of the drinkers.

" To give more liveliness to the scene, the President proposed the health of the Prince of Wales : this was his birth-day. We then drank to the Elector Palatine, who was that day to be admitted into the Royal Society. The same compliment was next paid to us foreigners, of whom there were five present.

" The members of the Club afterwards saluted each other, one by one, with a glass of wine. According to this custom, one must drink as many times as there are guests, for it would be thought a want of politeness in England to drink to the health of more persons than one at a time.

" A few bottles of champagne completed the enlivenment of every one. Tea came next, together with bread and butter, and all the usual accompaniments : Coffee followed, humbly yielding preference to the tea, though it be the better of the two. In France we commonly drink only one cup of good coffee after dinner ; in England they drink five or six of the most detestable kind.

" Brandy, rum, and some other strong liqueurs, closed this philosophic banquet, which terminated at half-past seven, as we had to be at a meeting of the Royal Society summoned for eight o'clock. Before we left, however, the names of all the guests were written on a large sheet of paper,¹ and each of us paid seven livres four sols French money : this was not dear.²

¹ This piece of paper has survived and is preserved among the archives of the Club.

² Six shillings for such a repast was certainly not dear. The practice of making foreign guests pay for their dinner was not abolished till 1831,

" I repaired to the Society along with Messrs. Banks, Cavendish, Maskelyne, Aubert, and Sir Henry Englefield ; we were all pretty much enlivened, but our gaiety was decorous.

" Doubtless, I should not wish to partake of similar dinners, if they were to be followed by settling the interests of a great nation, or discussing the best form of government ; that would neither be wise nor prudent. But to meet in order to celebrate the admission of an Elector Palatine, (who has, besides, much merit) to a learned Society, is not a circumstance from which any inconvenience can result."¹

1785. The Annual General Meeting for 1785 was held on July 28th and there were present :

Sir Joseph Banks, Bart., President

Dr. Maskelyne	Sir George Shuckburgh, Bart.
Dr. Morton	Sir George Baker, Bart.
Dr. Warren	General Roy
Dr. Agar	Mr. Banks Hodgkinson
Dr. Watson	Mr. Dalrymple
Dr. Lort	Mr. Holford
Mr. Kaye	Mr. Aubert

Mr. Russell, Treasurer

The Treasurer reported that his disbursements during the past year had amounted to £31 6s. 6d., leaving a balance against the Club of £10 2s. 7d. He explained that this considerable debt arose from the payment of four shillings instead of the former three for each person that dined. The meeting unanimously decided that a call of half a guinea should be made on each member. Since the last Anniversary the total attendance at the meetings had been 675, consisting of 541 members and 134 visitors.

The death of Mr. Duane and Dr. Huck-Saunders was intimated. Dr. Patrick Russell, being still in the East Indies, desired to resign his place in the Club which he hoped to be allowed to resume at some future time when,

when a formal resolution of the Club on the subject was passed. But this resolution was rescinded ten years later. More hospitable treatment, however, has now for a long time prevailed.

¹ *A Journey through England and Scotland to the Hebrides in 1784*, by B. Faujas de Saint Fond. Revised edition of the English Translation, edited with Notes by Archibald Geikie, Glasgow 1907, vol. I. p. 46.

after his return, there might be a vacancy. Including the vacancy left over from last year, the meeting decided that four vacancies might be filled up. The Minute then proceeds as follows :

“The list of Candidates having, for some years past, not been read (for some reason), but the Candidates put to the ballot in the order in which they stood on the List, it was resolved that the whole List of Candidates be always read previous to the election ; which being done the election was proceeded in and the following gentlemen were by ballot duly elected Members, viz. Lieut.-Col. William Calderwood and William Herschel, Egre.”

The former of these new members had been proposed by General Roy. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1776. Herschel's activity as an original genius in the pursuit of astronomical studies had shown no pause since he first came as a visitor to the Club. In this year the King, who had made him Court Astronomer in 1782, furnished him with a grant which enabled him to begin the construction of his great forty-foot mirror, with which when completed on 28th August 1789 he discovered the sixth satellite of Saturn and was enabled to march on to further important discoveries in the stellar universe.

There were comparatively few foreign visitors at the Club dinners this year. The most interesting personage was the elder of the two brothers Montgolfier who have already been referred to in their connection with the earliest attempts in aerial navigation. Joseph-Michel Montgolfier, born in 1740, was five years older than his brother Jacques-Étienne. Their efforts with hot air were soon eclipsed by the introduction of gas into ballooning. They worked well in the endeavour to devise means of controlling the course of a balloon through the air, for they were ingenious mechanics ; but they were poor ; the funds supplied to them by friends and admirers were inadequate ; they could get no real assistance from the government of their country and the outbreak of the Revolution put a final stop to their labours. When Buonaparte came into power he bestowed the decoration of the Legion of Honour upon the elder

brother as one who had contributed to the advancement of national industry. At a later time Joseph-Michel Montgolfier was appointed administrator of the *Arts et Métiers*. He received a place in the Institute of France and took a large share in the establishment of the Société d'Encouragement pour l'Industrie Nationale (1802). He was the author of several ingenious mechanical inventions. He died in 1810.

In October and November of this year a certain "Professor Dr. Camper" and his son dined several times with the Club. It may be inferred that this was the eminent Dutch physician and anatomist who had made himself an European reputation. He was born in 1722. Two years after he took the degree of Doctor of Medicine he travelled in France, England and Switzerland, visiting everywhere the scientific institutions and the art collections, making acquaintance with the most eminent men, and contending in disputation for the prizes proposed by foreign Academies. He occupied successively chairs in medical subjects at different seats of learning in Holland, and found further scope for his energies by becoming a Deputy in the Assembly of the States of the Province of Friesland, and a member of the State Council of the United Provinces. Notwithstanding these multifarious demands on his thought and time he continued his studies and was able to produce masterly contributions to philosophy, art, and various branches of medicine, above all to anatomy. The course of political events in his native country in 1786 is said to have greatly affected him. He died of pleurisy in 1789.

There do not seem to have been many English visitors of special note this year. They included Major-General Rainsforth, F.R.S., who after an active career in the army had gone into Parliament; George, Earl of Morton, F.R.S., invited several times by Sir Joseph Banks, was the grandson of the Earl who had been so staunch a supporter of the Club in its earlier days; Matthew Boulton and James Watt, the two partners in the famous Birmingham firm, who came on the invitation of the President; Lord

Spencer, Colonel Miranda and John Hunter. The Dinner-registers of the Club of this period enable us to make a slight correction in Wilson's admirable *Life of Cavendish* where it is stated that Cavendish and Watt "met in August 1785 [at Birmingham] for the first time after their rivalry in 1784."¹ They were both present together with Boulton at the Royal Society Club's dinner on the 24th February 1785, with Sir Joseph Banks in the Chair. We can well believe that at this dinner the first steps were taken towards the re-establishment of friendly relations between them, and that the way was paved towards the visit which Cavendish paid to Watt later in the year.

1786. Although no trace of discordance appears in the records of the Royal Philosophers, the years 1783-1784 witnessed an unfortunate schism within the Royal Society. It arose ostensibly out of a complaint that the duties of the Foreign Secretaryship, to which a gentleman had been appointed who resided at Woolwich, could not be properly discharged unless the holder of it lived in London. But there were underlying personal antagonisms which led to much heat and ill-feeling. The President and Council, however, were supported in their action by an overwhelming majority of the Fellows. Some of the discomfited leaders showed their vexation in a manner more likely to injure themselves than the Society. The chief of them, the Rev. Dr. Samuel Horsley, had been a Fellow since 1767, and had taken an active part in the business of the Society, of which for some years he was Secretary. He appears to have been particularly arrogant and bitter in his opposition to the policy of the President, and when he found himself completely defeated, he resigned his connection with the Society. The Secretary, Paul Henry Maty, was hardly less restrained in the controversy. Boldly refusing to obey the ruling of the President in the chair at the meeting on 25th March 1784 he in a sensational manner threw up his office and withdrew.

It may be believed that the echoes of this angry warfare could not fail to reverberate in the Club, for each side had

¹ *Op. cit.* p. 162.

powerful and much respected representatives at its table. The leaders of the defeated party felt so keenly their discomfiture that they gave up attendance at the Club-dinners, thereby exposing themselves to the probable loss of their membership.

It was at the Annual General Meeting on July 27th 1786 (which was attended by fifteen members, Sir Joseph Banks presiding) that the matter first came formally before the Club. The Treasurer having stated that his disbursements amounted to £47 8s. 7d., and that there was a balance against the Club of £25 18s. 1d., it was unanimously resolved that a call of one guinea from each member should be made. He announced the death of the Rev. Samuel Hemming.

The Treasurer further reported that certain members had not attended any of the meetings during the past year. They were leaders in the opposition to the President and Council. A ballot was then taken upon each of these members severally, and it was thereby determined that Dr. Horsley, Mr. Stuart, Sir Noah Thomas and Mr. Maty had vacated their seats in the Club. Their names accordingly henceforth disappear from the list of the membership.

As the result of the ballot only two vacancies were filled up, by the election of the Earl of Leicester and the Earl of Morton.

The Earl of Leicester had received this title in 1784. On the death of his mother in 1770, who was a peeress in her own right, he was summoned to parliament as Baron Ferrars de Chartley. In his youth he had been in the army but he soon went into official life. In 1781 as Lord Ferrars he was elected into the Royal Society. In 1784 when he received his earldom he was chosen President of the Society of Antiquaries. He was appointed Master of the Mint in 1790, an office which he exchanged for that of joint Postmaster-General in 1794. He became Lord Steward of the Household in 1799. He was also a Trustee of the British Museum. In 1807 he succeeded his father as Marquis Townshend. He died in 1811.

George, Earl of Morton, grandson of the former President of the Royal Society, succeeded to the title on the death of his father in 1774. He was a representative peer of Scotland. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society on February 24th 1785.

An abrupt, and in some respects regrettable, change took place in the Dinner-registers of the Club at the end of the year 1785. The Treasurer, William Russell, had evidently aged a good deal during the year. With his own hands, however, he continued the chronicle of the dinners up to the last meeting in December, and had received the sanction of the Club to have a fresh book prepared for preserving the weekly record of the dinners, and likewise to procure a box to hold the volumes containing the annals of the Club from the commencement in 1743. He completed volume VII., but his writing at the last is plainly that of a failing hand. He did not himself begin volume VIII., but he was able to attend the weekly meetings during the greater part of 1786 and probably made his memoranda at the table which were transferred by an amanuensis to the new book. The chronicling of the bill of fare at each dinner seems however to have been too much for the increasingly feeble fingers of the devoted Treasurer. These *menus* now disappear and were never resumed. It was not yet the fashion to put the bill of fare into type, and to place a print of it before each member of the dining party. As a piece of historical evidence, therefore, in the progress of gastronomy and change of taste, it is well to have in these crimson-bound volumes a complete record of the fare provided for a company of cultivated men every week during forty years of the eighteenth century.

A considerable number of foreign visitors dined with the Club this year, and as usual they were for the most part introduced by the President. In the spring he invited President Virly, M. Le Breton, Dr. Vigaroux, and Dr. Brussinet. Next month he brought Captain D'Auvergne, in August Mr. Krantzenstein and Professor Thorkelin. He was thereafter absent from the dinners for some weeks,



MAJOR JAMES RENNELL, F.R.S., 1781.

but on his return in November and December he led in a fresh cohort of foreigners—the Baron de Vaij, Count Revisky, Baron Nolcken, Mr. Kuittner and the Abbé Gruber. Some of the other members likewise took their share in the entertainment of foreign visitors. Dr. Maskelyne brought M. Arriani, Dr. Blagden invited Dr. Testa and M. de Virly; Mr. Aubert, Count Oginsky and Count Soderini; and Dr. Shepherd the Prince Rezzonico.

The list of English visitors for the year contains a few fresh names. The Mr. Cardonell, invited by Sir William Musgrave, may be conjectured to have been the antiquary Adam Cardonell who lived in Edinburgh, and helped Francis Grose with information for his "*Antiquities of Scotland.*" The Earl of Buchan, the guest of Dr. Watson,¹ was the eleventh who bore the title and was a familiar figure in the society of his day, political, social, and literary. Sir William Fordyce, who came on the invitation of the President, was one of a group of brothers born in Aberdeenshire. He chose the medical profession and rose to eminence in it as a London practitioner. Among the faces now familiar to the Club there appeared again this year those of Sir James Hall, Josiah Wedgwood and his son and Sir Henry Englefield.

1787. The Annual General Meeting for 1787, held on 26th July, was attended by only ten members, the President being in the Chair. The Treasurer, unable through feebleness to be present, sent his financial statement, which showed a balance against the Club of £22 os. 1d. The meeting agreed to call upon each member for a contribution of one guinea to the Fund. Mr. Hooper owing to the state of his health resigned his membership. The Earl of Leicester, not having attended any of the weekly meetings of the Club during the last year, nor paid his admission fee, was declared upon ballot to have vacated his election as a member. The number of vacancies was then fixed at five. After the list of candi-

¹ It may be remarked in passing that this staunch supporter of the Club the only surviving member of the original company who started it, this year received the honour of knighthood.

dates had been read, a ballot was taken when the following four gentlemen were declared to be duly elected: Philip Stephens, William Marsden, Edmund Turnor and Matthew Raper. Although the Treasurer had been for more than six months too ill to attend to the duties of his office, the Club were unwilling to make any change, and their customary vote of thanks to him was recorded with unusual fulness: "the thanks of the Club were voted to Mr. Russell for the care and attention which he had paid to the interest of the Club, and the great trouble which he had taken therein." He died in less than a fortnight after this meeting.

A few words may be inserted with regard to the standing of the new members. Philip Stephens, now in the 62nd year of his age, was Secretary to the Admiralty and member of Parliament for Sandwich. He became F.R.S. in 1771 and was created a baronet in 1795.

William Marsden, after serving under the East India Company, returned to London where in 1804 he became Secretary to the Admiralty. He published in 1783 a "History of Sumatra," followed by other works. In the course of his life he accumulated a valuable collection of coins which before his death he gave to the British Museum. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1783, and became one of the most active and useful members of that body, being elected its Treasurer in 1802. In 1788 he was chosen Treasurer of the Club. He reached the age of 82 and died in 1836.

Edmund Turnor, M.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge, sat for a short time in Parliament. He had strong antiquarian proclivities and published several works on antiquarian subjects. He was made F.R.S. in 1786.

Matthew Raper may be conjectured to have been the son of the member of the same name who was elected into the Club in 1760. He became F.R.S. in 1783.

This year there passed away the last of the original little group of eight by whom the Club had been started in 1743—Sir William Watson. He was able to attend four dinners in the early months of the year, but he died before its end

at the age of 72. The knighthood bestowed upon him in 1786 was a tardy recognition of his distinction as a physician and of the remarkable gentleness, courtesy and kindness which endeared him to so wide a circle of friends. Dr. Pulteney has preserved a typical example of his calm and sympathetic nature. "Not many years before his death he was waked one morning very early by his servant, who came to inform him that his house had been broken open, and that his plate (which was of considerable value) was stolen. 'Is that all,' said he, coolly—'I was afraid you had brought me some alarming message from Mr. ——— concerning whose dangerous situation I have been very uneasy all night.' " ¹

The foreign guests this year though not numerous were of some eminence. The "M. Buchetti," invited by Joseph Planta on May 24th, may have been the Italian Jesuit and man of letters who made translations of Moschus, Bion and Theocritus. He travelled far and wide through Europe and died at Venice in October 1804. Professor Pictet, the guest of Mr. Aubert on May 31st, was probably the young friend and companion of De Saussure whom he succeeded in the chair of philosophy at Geneva,—a position which he retained till his death in 1825. When, after its incorporation into France, Geneva regained its independence as a part of Switzerland, and scientific studies could be resumed, Pictet devoted himself more especially to the pursuit of meteorology and actively promoted the establishment of meteorological stations on some of the mountain tops of his native country. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1791. He published in 1793 an account of his tour of three months through England, Scotland and Ireland. He deserves to be remembered as the founder of the periodical publication—the *Bibliothèque Universelle*.

M. Tenon, introduced by Sir Joseph Banks, together with M. Colomb on 7th June, was a distinguished French surgeon. Commissioned by the Académie des Sciences to visit England

¹ *Historical and Biographical Sketches of the Progress of Botany in England*, vol. I.

for the purpose of studying hospital management in this country, he returned to France with much fresh knowledge which would have enabled him to institute important reforms in the hospitals of Paris. But the Revolution had broken out. In 1793 he withdrew to a country-house which he had in the village of Massy and devoted himself to serious research in anatomy. Immersed in his studies and taking no heed of public affairs, he was for a time afraid to accept the honour of election (1795) into the Institut National, which he feared was only another political club. When the allied troops came in July 1815, the Russian soldiers pillaged his library and collections. Thus driven back to Paris he died there a few months later at the great age of 92.

On the 22nd November Dr. Blagden, carrying out one of the agreeable functions of his office as Secretary of the Royal Society, introduced to the Club a trio of distinguished Frenchmen—Jaques Dominique, Comte de Cassini, Adrien Marie Legendre, and Pierre François André Méchain. The Comte de Cassini, the son and grandson of astronomers, carried on the renown of the family. He succeeded his father as Director of the Paris Observatory and he completed the great topographical map of France which his father had begun. Born in 1747 he outlived the trials and terrors of the Revolution, though he was arrested as a royalist and brought before the revolutionary tribunal. He died in 1845 at the remarkable age of 98. He was elected into the Royal Society on 30th April 1789, at the same time as Laplace, Legendre, Méchain, and Berthollet. Méchain, another noted French astronomer, first made his mark by detecting a number of comets and calculating their orbits. He was employed in measuring the portion of the terrestrial meridian between Dunkirk and Barcelona. Having completed the task assigned to him he wished to continue the measurement as far as the Balearic Isles, but on this journey he was carried off by yellow fever. The third of the trio, Legendre, one of the most eminent of the famous mathematicians of France, had been associated with Cassini and

Méchain in the operations of connecting the observatories of Paris and Greenwich.

The English visitors who this year dined for the first time with the Club included a few of general interest. One of these was Sir John Sinclair of Ulbster in Caithness, who has been already referred to in connection with the misdeeds of Eric Rudolf Raspe. He was one of the most active-minded and philanthropic Scotsmen of his day who among his various undertakings conceived the idea of having a statistical account of Scotland drawn up for each parish by its resident parish minister and edited by himself. This important work, begun in 1791 and completed in eight years, was the first fairly complete detailed account of the statistics of the country. He had received a baronetcy the year before Sir Joseph Banks introduced him to the Club.

Dr. Burney, likewise invited by the President, was doubtless the musician who is as well known for being the father of the lively Frances, as for his "History of Music."

"Mr. Piozzi" who was the guest of Dr. Shepherd on 8th November was probably the Italian musician whom Mrs. Thrale married. After that unpopular alliance she and her husband retired to Italy, but they returned to London this year to find that the social world was now willing to receive them.

1788. The Annual General Meeting on July 31st 1788 was attended by thirteen members, Sir Joseph Banks presiding. It was then reported that on the death of Mr. Russell, the late Treasurer, in the month of August of the previous year, Mr. Topham had been requested by the President and members present at the meeting on the 16th of that month to undertake the duties of the office until the next election. He now announced that in consequence of Mr. Russell's illness the entries in the Club's books had not been made since the end of the year 1785, but that he had himself continued these entries "in the several books, namely the weekly Register, the annual Minute-book and the Account-book down to the present time." It appeared that a balance of £21 19s. was owing by the Fund to him

and it was resolved that a call should be made for one guinea from each member to pay off this adverse balance and meet the expenses of the current year. Mr. Topham stated that being prevented from attending the meetings as often as the interest of the Club required of the Treasurer he desired to be excused from continuing in the office. At this Meeting "it was agreed with Mr. Simpkin, the Master of the Crown and Anchor Tavern, that from the first Thursday in August till the last Thursday in October, both inclusive, the Dinners shall be provided for seven only instead of ten, at 4/- per head, as at present, and subject to the same regulations in other respects as subsist at present."

The number of vacancies was declared to be five and on a ballot the following candidates were elected—Major James Rennell, Dr. Samuel Foart Simmons, Richard Molesworth, William Parsons and Sir George Leonard Staunton, Bart. William Marsden was chosen Treasurer for the ensuing year. The President, Sir Joseph Banks, was re-elected as usual.

The new members had all frequently dined with the Club. Major Rennell [1742-1830] was one of the ablest geographers of his day. As surveyor-general of Bengal he had the charge of the first survey of that province, and his *Bengal Atlas* is a lasting monument of his scientific ability. His great map of India placed him in the front rank of cartographers. Having never wholly recovered from wounds inflicted by a party of fakirs when in the field, he retired from active service in 1777 and came to London, where he devoted himself to the consideration of problems in comparative geography, to the study of African geography and to the investigation of the currents of the Atlantic Ocean. The Royal Society elected him a Fellow in 1781, and in recognition of the great value of his researches awarded to him the Copley Medal in 1791. For many years he was regarded as the leader of the geographers in this country, and his house became a centre to which travellers from all parts of the world repaired. Miss Burney's little sketch of him may appropriately be quoted here.

“Major Rennell, whose East India geographical erudition you must have heard of from Captain Phillips, was full of characteristic intelligence, simply and clearly delivered; and made us all wiser by his matter, if we remembered it, and gayer by his manner, whether we remembered it or not. I hope to meet him often. He is a gay little wizen old man in appearance, from the eastern climate’s dilapidations upon his youth and health; but I believe not old in years, any more than in spirits.”¹

Dr. Simmons, a physician of good standing in London, was made F.R.S. in 1779. Richard Molesworth became F.R.S. in 1786 and William Parsons in 1787.

Sir George Staunton, Bart., M.D., graduated in medicine at Montpellier. Finding little opening in his profession in this country, he went to the West Indies, where he practised for some years. Before he quitted England he had made the acquaintance of Samuel Johnson, who in 1762, on the eve of his departure, wrote to him thus: “I cannot but regret that a man of your qualifications should find it necessary to seek an establishment in Guadaloupe, which if a peace should restore it to the French, I shall think it some alleviation of the loss that it must likewise restore Dr. Staunton to the English.”² Subsequently he went to the East Indies and entered the service of the East India Company. Retiring from this service on a pension, after accomplishing some difficult diplomatic negotiations, he was made an Irish baronet in 1785. Two years later he was elected into the Royal Society. In 1792 he went out again to the East as Secretary to Macartney’s Embassy to China, of which he published an account. He died in 1801 and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

No fresh visitors from abroad appeared at the Club this year, but a welcome was given again to Lalande who after the lapse of a quarter of a century had come back to England. He was evidently the same man of the world as

¹ *Diary and Letters of Madame D’Arblay*, vol. V. p. 269 (December 1791). Rennell was 49 when this picture of him was drawn.

² Boswell’s *Life* (Birkbeck Hill’s Edit.), vol. I. p. 367.

before, but this time we have a sketch of him from the pen of Fanny Burney who was a shrewd judge of character and had an admirable gift of expressing her judgments of it. He was brought to be introduced to her, at Windsor where she was in attendance on the Queen, and this is the account she wrote of the interview: "M. de Lalande advanced to meet me—I will not be quite positive it was on tiptoe, but certainly with jerk and strut that could not be quite flat-footed. He kissed his hand with the air of a *petit-maître*, and then broke forth into such a harangue of *éloges*, so solemn with regard to its own weight and importance, and so *fade* with respect to the little personage addressed, that I could not help thinking it lucky for the planets, stars and sun, they were not bound to hear his comments, though obliged to undergo his calculations." His "figure corresponds no better with his discourse than his scientific profession, for he is an ugly, wrinkled old man, with a fine showy waistcoat, rich lace ruffles and the grimaces of a dentist. I believe he chose to display that a French man of science could be also a man of gallantry." "I suppose in going, he said, with a shrug, to the Canon, 'M. le Docteur, c'est bien *génant*, mais il faut dire des jolies choses aux dames.'" ¹

The same clever but sarcastic journalist has left a slight sketch of the President of the Club, who somehow found himself in a fashionable company, in March of this year. "In our first journey to Windsor this month the party was Miss Planta, Colonel Welbred, Mr. Fairly, Sir Joseph Banks and Mr. Turbulent. Sir Joseph was so exceedingly shy that we made no sort of acquaintance at all. If instead of going round the world he had only fallen from the moon he could not appear less versed in the usual modes of a tea-drinking party. But what, you will say, has a tea-drinking party to do with a botanist, a man of science, a President of the Royal Society" ? ²

There were few new-comers of note from the United

¹ *Diary and Letters of Madame D'Arblay*, vol. iv. p. 243.

² *Ibid.* p. 128.



JOSEPH-JÉRÔME LE FRANÇAIS DE LALANDE, F.R.S., 1763.

Kingdom at the Club's table this year. By far the most eminent of them in science was Dr. Black, the President's guest on 7th August, if we may believe the guest to have been the illustrious Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh, a great original discoverer and one of the founders of modern Chemistry, who was linked also with the earliest stages of Geology in this country, as the helpful and sagacious friend and counsellor of Hutton and Playfair. Among the other names on the register of the meetings occur those of the Earl of Fife, the Earl of Glasgow, Sir Henry Englefield, Sir Thomas Dundas and other visitors who had previously dined with the Club. Of those who came for the first time one of the most interesting was Dr. John Sibthorp, if we may identify the person so named with the eminent botanist, son and successor of the Professor of Botany at Cambridge. Before this time he had been much in the eastern part of the Mediterranean basin, studying the flora of the islands and the coasts of the mainland—regions which he revisited in later years. He published a Flora of Oxford and left the MS. of a Prodrômus to the Flora of Greece which was issued after his death. He was elected into the Royal Society on 6th March of this year. He died in 1796 at the early age of thirty-eight.

CHAPTER VII.

PRESIDENTSHIP OF SIR JOSEPH BANKS, *continued*

1789-1810

1789. At the Annual General Meeting on 30th July 1789, when there were twenty members present, with Sir Joseph Banks in the Chair, the financial statement of the new Treasurer was submitted, from which it appeared that a balance of £11 10s. 6d. was due to him. It was accordingly resolved that each member of the Club should contribute a guinea to make good the deficiency and provide for the expenses of the ensuing year. There were no vacancies in the membership to be filled. A resolution was passed which brought the meetings of the Club into still closer relation with those of the Royal Society—"that the future anniversary meetings of the Club shall be held on the Thursday next succeeding the last meeting of the Royal Society previous to the long vacation." Though the number of the company to be provided for at each dinner during the autumn months had in the previous year been reduced to seven, the attendance in September and the first half of October of that year had been generally much below the required number, involving a considerable drain on the Fund. This year saw no improvement. The last two meetings in September were attended respectively by five and by four members without guests, while at the first meeting in October only three mustered, and at the second only two. The most steady attendant was as usual Henry Cavendish. On the 8th October he and Dr. Simmons had the whole of the provender as well as the conversation at their own disposal. The change

of habit which led to a general exodus of society and of professional men from London in autumn was obviously gaining ground, but there were doubtless some members of the Club who either from choice or necessity preferred to remain in town, and to whom the cessation of the weekly dinner would have caused a serious blank in life.

There was one member who had not attended during a whole year and who according to the regulations was liable to be declared no longer a member. It is interesting to know that his case was put to the ballot and that there were ten balls in favour of his retention and nine for his exclusion. It was thereupon resolved that the member "be still considered a member of the Club." It would thus appear that, on occasion, the rules could be set aside to such an extent that the exclusion of a member by ballot required an absolute majority of black balls. There were no vacancies this year in the membership.

Among the foreign visitors there came a group of Portuguese diplomats. On 23rd July Francisco-Jose-Maria, Chevalier de Brito, and Araujo de Azevedo, Count of Barca dined with the Club. M. Brito had filled various diplomatic functions including that of Envoy-extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Court of Portugal to the King of France. He was a friend of the Count of Barca. The latter was now on his way to the Hague as the Minister Plenipotentiary from Portugal, but he had halted in England, where he made the acquaintance of Sir Joseph Banks. After filling the anxious post given to him in Holland he was transferred to Berlin, where as usual he took pains to cultivate the society of the most prominent philosophers of the day. He was fond of science and literature and devoted his leisure to their pursuit. When he was called off from Europe to undertake duties in the Portuguese colony of Brazil, he signalled his stay there by forming a large botanic garden and introducing the cultivation of tea into the country. One of the employments of his leisure was to translate into Portuguese, and among the poems which were thus introduced to his fellow-countrymen

was Gray's *Elegy*. He likewise revised his translation of Horace's Odes. To his taste and energy Rio Janeiro owed the foundation of a School of the Fine Arts. Later in the year a third Portuguese was entertained by the Club—the Marquis de Souza. He also had a strong sympathy for literature, and when resident in France published at Paris a sumptuous edition of the *Lusiades* of Camoens.

The English visitor with the most varied career who appeared at the Club this year was Colonel Robert Morse, who came on the invitation of Joseph Planta. He was of the same age as the Club, being born in 1743. From the time when he was twenty he had been engaged in fighting the French by sea and land. He had taken part in landings on the coast of France and had fought in the Westphalian campaign. His appointment as assistant quartermaster-general allowed him a short stay in England. But in 1773 he was sent as commanding engineer to the islands in the Caribbean Sea which had been ceded by the French at the end of the Seven Years' War. On his return he was employed in constructing defences along the coasts of this country and in 1788 he received promotion to Colonel. Two years after he dined with the Club he was despatched to Gibraltar and remained there for five years as commanding royal engineer. In the succession of his several promotions and appointments he was made Inspector-general of fortifications in this country and rose to the rank of General. He retired from the service in 1811 and died in 1818 at the age of 75.

1790. The Annual General Meeting in 1790 was held on July 1st when the following was the attendance :

Sir Joseph Banks, President

Earl of Morton	Lord Palmerston
Sir George Baker	Dr. Charles Blagden
Hon. Henry Cavendish	Major Rennell
Alexander Aubert	Alexander Dalrymple
Dr. S. F. Simmons	Philip Stephens
John Smeaton	John Walsh
Dr. Richard Warren	Dr. Nevil Maskelyne

William Marsden, Treasurer

The Treasurer's financial statement showed that his disbursements to complete the payment of tavern bills had amounted to £41 13s. 3d. and there was a balance of £13 5s. 9d. due to him. In order to clear off that debt and provide for the expenses of the next year it was resolved that a call of two guineas each should be made on the members. The total number of members and guests who had dined since the last anniversary was 565, of whom 444 were members and 121 were visitors.

The death of two members, Sir Robert Barker and General William Roy, was announced. One member who had not attended for more than a year was declared by ballot to have forfeited his membership. In the case of the Rev. Sir Richard Kaye, Bart., Dean of Lincoln, who was also a defaulter, the ballot affirmed that he should still be considered a member.

The number of vacancies to be filled was declared to be four and the list of candidates was duly read. As the result of the ballot only one member was elected—Dr. Patrick Russell, who had been a member of the Club for some years from 1776 onwards, but when he went to the Carnatic under the auspices of the East India Company, had resigned his membership. Having now returned to England he made application to be readmitted a member (p. 136). His election was unanimous. Advantage was taken of the occasion to make a rule for such cases in future, and it was unanimously resolved: "That a member of the Club who resigns his seat on account of leaving the kingdom, shall upon application to be re-admitted, have a preference in the order of ballot to other candidates."

Among the rare references to contemporary events outside the Royal Society and the Club there occurs on the Dinner-register of 12th August 1790 the following addendum: "Being the birthday of His Royal Highness George, Prince of Wales, his health was drunk by the members of the Club." ¹

¹ The Prince's health was also toasted in 1784 (*ante*, p. 170), and may often have been at other times, though in the registers reference is hardly ever made to any toasts.

There was a goodly number of foreign visitors at the Club in the course of this year. Of these were the Marquis de Souza, the Baron Vay de Vaja, M. Patricot and Dr. Ingenhousz invited by the President; M. Épivent, M. L'Evesque and M. Ungeschiek, guests of Maskelyne; Colonel de Mestral, Professor von Marum from Haerlem, M. Rochon, M. L'Huillier and M. Possett, Professor of History from Prague, introduced by Blagden, and Herr Herrenschneider, Professor of Astronomy at Strasburg, the guest of Dr. Simmons.

M. Rochon was a French astronomer and physicist then about fifty years of age, who had voyaged over the Indian Ocean, making many hydrographic observations. He devoted so much attention to the construction of optical instruments that the French government made him astronomical optician to the Navy. He had been sent to England this year in connection with the adoption of a new system of weights and measures. In the midst of the internal troubles of his country he was two years later deprived of all his posts. He then retired into Brittany and occupied himself with different works of public utility, while at the same time he had the satisfaction of being able to save a number of victims from the scaffold. One of these, his own cousin, rewarded him by bestowing her hand on him. In 1796 he was appointed Director of the Observatory which at his suggestion the Government had established at Brest. In 1805 he obtained permission to reside in Paris where he continued to write papers on optics and other branches of science. He died in 1817 at the age of 76.

John Louis Alexander Herrenschneider was a French meteorologist who at the University of Strasburg pursued at first law-studies, but his real bent being towards science, he was allowed to carry on the mathematical teaching of his uncle who had died. In the end he was appointed Professor of Astronomy, and undertook a journey through Europe in order to visit the observers and observatories of most renown. When an imperial university was set up at Strasburg he obtained the chair of physics which he

held until 1829. He especially distinguished himself by the series of detailed meteorological observations which he carried on day by day for more than forty years. He died in 1843 at the age of 83.

The most famous name on the list of guests from the United Kingdom this year was the illustrious President of the Royal Academy, Sir Joshua Reynolds, then in his sixty-ninth year. He had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society as far back as 1761. On the present occasion he was the guest of the President (16th December) and the only stranger in the company, which numbered twelve and included Henry Cavendish, Dr. Blagden, Alexander Dalrymple, John Smeaton, Dr. Simmons, Alexander Aubert and William Marsden, the Treasurer.

Of the other visitors to the Club during the year one or two may be briefly mentioned. The "Mr. Fred. North" who by invitation of the President dined on 4th February, may have been the famous Oxford Grecian and lover of Greece, who is said to have been able to write and speak with ease French, Spanish, Italian, German and modern Greek and to write a Pindaric ode in the language of Pindar. After being in Parliament for two years he resigned his seat on being appointed comptroller of customs in the Port of London. In 1798 he was made Governor of Ceylon and conferred signal benefits on that island. After some years spent in travelling through Europe he returned to England and on the death of his brother in 1817 became the fifth Earl of Guilford.

Sir David Dalrymple, better known by his judicial title of Lord Hailes, of the Scottish Court of Session, dined on 12th August on the invitation of his brother Alexander, member of the Club. As a historian and lawyer he had a wide reputation in his own day and his works are still of value. He was an esteemed friend of Johnson, who, as Boswell tells, on one occasion "drank a bumper to him 'as a man of worth, a scholar, and a wit.'"

There must have been a little excitement in the Club on the 18th of March when the President was able to produce

at the dinner-table Captain Bligh, the hero of the "Mutiny of the 'Bounty.'" Sir Joseph, always glad to bring a social "lion" to the dinners, deserved the warm congratulations of his fellow members on the rapidity and energy of his movements that enabled him to catch this celebrity only four days after he returned from his memorable voyage. William Bligh was a Cornish seaman who had served under Captain Cook in his second voyage round the world. He was known as "Breadfruit Bligh" from the fruit discovered in Otaheite in the course of that voyage. He became lieutenant and showed such skill in cartography and navigation that in the autumn of 1787 he was sent out in the *Bounty* to bring home plants of the bread-fruit tree, for the purpose of acclimatising them in the West Indies, as an additional source of food. The plants having been obtained and successfully packed in his vessel, he left Otaheite on 4th April 1789, and had made some way on his homeward voyage when on the 27th, without any warning, a majority of the crew mutinied. He with eighteen of the officers and crew who remained loyal were put into an open boat, with a scanty supply of food. Turning back to the Friendly Islands to obtain more provisions he was there, after two days, driven off by the natives, who killed one man and wounded several others. It was then resolved to make for Timor which they estimated to be some 4000 miles away. Early in June they came in sight of the coast of New Holland and collected a small supply of shell-fish. Eventually after a voyage of 46 days in a crazy boat in squally wet weather the party reached Timor. Here they remained to recruit until 20th August, when they got a vessel to take them to Batavia, which they reached on 2nd October. Leaving the rest to follow, Bligh and two of the crew took ship for the Cape, and thence obtained a passage to England, where he arrived on the evening of the 13th March and reached London next day. Next year he was appointed to the *Providence* on another voyage to the Society Islands. In later years he commanded ships of war on the North Sea. At the Battle of Copenhagen he was in command of



COUNT RUMFORD, F.R.S., 1779.

the *Glutton*, and was personally thanked by Nelson for his services there. In 1805 he was appointed Captain-general and Governor of New South Wales, and in 1814 he became Vice-admiral of the Blue. He died towards the end of 1817.

1791. In 1791 the Annual General Meeting, held on 21st July, was attended by seventeen members, with the President in the chair. The Treasurer's statement showed that the disbursements amounted to £56 11s. 6d. and that there remained in his hands a balance of £23 3s. 6d. The contribution of members for the ensuing year was fixed at one guinea each. The number of members and guests who had dined since the last anniversary was 659.

It will be observed that the former custom of making a call upon the members for a subscription at any time of the year when the Fund was becoming too small, is now giving place to a larger subscription at the beginning of the financial year to meet the expenses that would arise in the course of that year. In 1791 there was an actual balance in the hands of the Treasurer which, in the earlier history of the Club, would have been sufficient for a time, so that no further call would then have been necessary. But the ordinary expenses were now increasing, and it was much more satisfactory to the Treasurer to have the subscriptions paid at the beginning, even if further calls in the course of the year should be required.

The death of Dr. Michael Lort was reported. It was stated that two members had not attended for more than twelve months. Henry Cavendish mentioned that he had received a letter from Mr. Kaye in which on the ground of infirm health he desired to resign his membership. There were five vacancies to be filled and the number of candidates was four. Each of these was separately balloted for, with the result that two new members were elected—John Thomas Stanley (F.R.S. 1790) and George Best (F.R.S. 1791). In the case of the two who were not successful, the one had fourteen votes in his favour and three against him, the other thirteen and four. These figures gave rise to

some discussion which the Treasurer briefly summarised thus :

“ Several members being of the opinion that the rule of admission to the Club is too strict as it now stands, a motion was made that an alteration do take place in respect to the number of negatives that shall hereafter exclude a candidate ; and the same being put to the ballot, it was resolved (11 to 6) that an alteration should take place.

“ A difference of opinion arising on the question whether the negatives excluding should be an absolute number (as heretofore) or should bear a proportion to the number of members present at the ballot ; it was resolved (11 to 6) that they should bear a proportion to the numbers present.

“ A ballot being then taken on the question whether the proportionate numbers constituting an election should be three-fourths or two-thirds of the members present, it was (12 to 5) resolved that from henceforth, when the number of affirmatives upon ballot for a candidate shall be to the number of three or more to one, and not otherwise, the person balloted for shall be duly elected.

“ A motion was made and it was resolved (11 to 4) that the hour of dining be in future at 5 o'clock, instead of half-past 4 of which the Treasurer is desired to give notice to the Master of the Tavern.” ¹

John T. Stanley who was one of the members now added to the Club succeeded to his father's baronetcy in 1807. He was raised to the peerage in 1839 with the title of Baron Stanley of Alderley. In 1802 he was “ discontinued ” as a member of the Club for non-attendance, but was afterwards re-elected.

The attendance still continued good. Henry Cavendish remained at the head of the company in having attended 51 times, that is, he was present at every weekly dinner throughout the whole year. Next to him came the Treasurer with 40 attendances, A. Dalrymple with 37, the President and A. Aubert with 36 and Dr. Blagden with 31. Lord Palmerston found time to dine frequently with the Club, sometimes taking the chair, and even the veteran Dr. Heberden, in spite of his eighty years, joined his old associates at the “ Crown and Anchor ” several times in the course of the summer and autumn. It may be remarked that the attendance at the end of August suddenly dropped from

¹ At this meeting, perhaps in anticipation of some difficulty about the voting, Mr. Aubert presented to the Club a set of balloting balls.

15 to 3, and only once rose to as many as 11 until the second week in November, when it mounted at once to 16. To promote the circulation of the wine Sir Joseph Banks presented to the Club this summer two pairs of bottle-coasters.

The foreign visitors this year included Baron Scheffer, Chevalier St. Michel, Baron Weltheim and Dr. Johann Friedrich Blumenbach of Göttingen, the great naturalist and physiologist who first placed natural history on a scientific basis of comparative anatomy. At this time he was in the full vigour of manhood. His renown as a craniologist was gained in later years. In 1814 he was visited at Göttingen by Sir Henry Holland who saw his collection of crania, then the most complete in Europe, and has recorded "the energy and clearness of his mind, little impaired by years. He was not a phrenologist in the later sense of the term ; but he saw the ethnological value of those distinctions which only large and well-classified collections of crania can afford." ¹

One of the English visitors was Davies Giddy (subsequently Gilbert), who was destined to play a conspicuous part in the Royal Society and at the Club. As a Cornish squire he devoted himself to the interests of his native county in which he had inherited landed property. He was elected into the Royal Society on 17th November of this year, six months after he had been the guest of the Club. He represented first Helston and then Bodmin in the House of Commons from 1804 to 1832, and proved a most assiduous member, giving most of his time to public business, and being universally respected for his sound sense and capacity. In 1808 he married the only daughter and heiress of Thomas Gilbert, and thereby came into possession of an extensive estate in Sussex. He then took the name of Gilbert instead of Giddy. He contributed several papers on scientific subjects to the *Philosophical Transactions* and advocated the interests of science and art in and out of parliament. In 1819 he was chosen Treasurer of the Royal Society and on the resignation of Sir Humphry Davy in 1827, was elected President. His tastes being largely literary and antiquarian, he busied himself

¹ *Recollections*, p. 118.

with the elucidation of the history of Cornwall and the preservation of such fragments as remain of Cornish literature.

The most notable representative of the Navy at the Club's table this year was Captain Edward Riou. After a varied service at sea, including the brilliant exploit of saving a 44 gunship, which was badly damaged against an iceberg, and piloting it with a load of stores, cattle and convicts to Table Bay, he was appointed to the *Augusta* in which he carried Sir Hyde Parker and Nelson to reconnoitre the defences of Copenhagen before the Battle of the Baltic (April 2, 1801), and took charge of the frigates and small craft. Though severely wounded, he was encouraging his men when he was cut in two by a cannon ball. Nelson wrote: "In poor dear Riou the country has sustained an irreparable loss," and Thomas Campbell in his "Battle of the Baltic" commemorates him together with the other "brave hearts"

On the deck of fame that died
With the gallant good Riou.

Among the guests who had previously been entertained by the Club there appeared again this year Sir Joshua Reynolds, Lord Hailes, Mendoza y Rios, Lord Midleton, Lord Loughborough, and others.

1792. The Annual General Meeting of 1792 took place on 5th July, and was attended by eighteen members, the President in the chair. The Treasurer stated that his disbursements to complete payment of tavern bills since the last audit had amounted to £35 9s. 7d., and that a balance of £28 13s. 11d. remained in his hands. It was then determined that the call upon each member for the expenses of the Club in the ensuing year should be one guinea. The number of members and guests who had dined since last Anniversary was 550. The Treasurer reported that no vacancy had occurred either from death or non-attendance and that three vacancies remained from last anniversary. Mr. Aubert, who had at the previous Anniversary presented to the Club a set of balloting balls, now completed his donation by making a gift of a ballot-box. But it could not be used on

this occasion, for there were no candidates on the list and the three vacancies stood over unfilled for another year.

Among the foreign visitors the most eminent was Professor Blumenbach, who dined seven times in the first three months of the year. Professor Seyffer, Signor Selvaggi, the Abbé Mann, and Lieut.-General Komazewski were also entertained. The last-named guest was a Pole who had distinguished himself by his skill in deciphering the codes of secret despatches. King Stanislaus Augustus had made him Lieutenant-General and had also chosen him as his own aide-de-camp, employing him on several diplomatic missions. He remained for some time in this country, for he dined at the Club three times between the beginning of February and the end of March, twice in May, and once again in October. It was an anxious time for the Poles between the peace of Jassy, which followed the defeat of the Turks by the Russians, and the second partition of Poland. And Komazewski was not improbably engaged in trying to obtain some support for his country.

The only English guest this year about whom a few words may be said here was Lord Sheffield. As John Baker Holroyd he had raised and commanded a dragoon regiment, devoted attention to commerce and agriculture, purchased the estate of Sheffield Place in Sussex and entered Parliament in 1780. He was raised to the Irish peerage in 1781, and thereafter to the British peerage with the title of Baron Sheffield of Sheffield. He is chiefly remembered as the most intimate and devoted friend of Edward Gibbon, whom he met first at Lausanne in 1764.

1793. The Anniversary in 1793 took place so early as the 27th June, when Sir Joseph Banks presided over a company of nineteen members. The Treasurer announced that the disbursements on account of tavern-bills since last midsummer amounted to £41 15s. 3d., leaving in his hands a balance of £26 16s. 8d. The annual subscription was then fixed at one guinea. Two vacancies were reported, occasioned by the death of Robert Banks Hodgkinson and John Smeaton. There were now five vacancies to be filled. As

the result of the ballot the following gentlemen were elected members: Sir William Young, Bart., Frederick Augustus Barnard, Charles Townley, Dr. John Hunter and Captain Philip d'Auvergne.

Sir William Young the second baronet, son of the Sir William Young already referred to (p. 31), sat in the House of Commons from 1784 to 1806 and was then appointed Governor of Tobago. He became F.R.S. in 1786. Frederick Barnard was elected into the Royal Society in 1790. Charles Townley was noted for the valuable collection of classical antiquities which he had gathered together in Italy, and which after his death was purchased by the British Museum. He was made F.R.S. in 1791. Dr. John Hunter was an Edinburgh M.D. who for a few years was superintendent of military hospitals in Jamaica, afterwards practising in London, where he was chosen Galstonian and Croonian lecturer. He became F.R.S. in 1786.

Captain Philip d'Auvergne, born in Jersey about 1745, was educated in England and entered the royal navy as midshipman. He claimed to belong to one of the old ducal families of France. And the claim was allowed by the Duc de Bouillon, who chose him as his heir and left him his valuable estates in France. At the peace of Amiens he went to France where he soon discovered that his presence was not liked by Buonaparte. He consequently quickly quitted the country without having recovered the estates, but George III. authorised him to assume the ducal title. When in 1803 he again dined with the Club, he took his place there as a member, with the title of Duc de Bouillon, and he had now risen to the rank of Admiral. He died in London in November 1816 about 70 years of age. He had been elected into the Royal Society in 1786.

The continent of Europe was at this time in a ferment from the Baltic to the Mediterranean. France had abolished its Monarchy, beheaded its King and proclaimed a Republic, and at the same moment was waging war against Spain, Holland and Great Britain. Many of the upper classes in that distracted country, who escaped the violence of

the mob or the organised executions of the revolutionary committees, found refuge in England. The whole male population of France capable of bearing arms was called out, opening a vista of years of pitiless war. It was with these surroundings that the Royal Society and its dining Club carried on their meetings during this memorable year of the Reign of Terror.

The weekly dinners took place as usual, but there were hardly any foreign visitors and a smaller number than usual of guests from the home country. The total attendance from the Anniversary of last year to that of this year was the smallest for some time before and after, the total number including guests and members being 497.

The Club was honoured this year with the presence of Edward Gibbon, author of the immortal "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." The Royal Society, then wider in its range of sympathies than it has since become, had elected him a Fellow in 1788. His health was now failing, but he had been leisurely preparing to come to England mainly for the purpose of returning a visit which his friend Lord Sheffield had paid him at Lausanne, when on the 26th April he received news of Lady Sheffield's death. Resolving at once to hasten his journey and join his friend without delay, he reached England at the beginning of June and went to Sheffield Place, Lord Sheffield's Sussex home. It was while staying there that the two friends received from Sir Joseph Banks a joint invitation to dine with the Club on 11th July. They accepted and their names appear on the dinner list, Mr. Gibbon on the President's right and Lord Sheffield on his left. The company numbered fourteen and included Henry Cavendish, A. Dalrymple, Dr. Maskelyne, Dr. P. Russell, and W. Marsden. This was probably one of the last appearances of the great historian in public. He came again to London for a short visit, returning to Sheffield Place for Christmas. Early in the following year he was again in London. But his health was now so seriously impaired as to necessitate an operation. He grew gradually feebler, and died in London on 16th January 1794.

Earl Spencer, Matthew Boulton, James Watt, John Playfair, Captain Bligh, Lord Frederick Campbell, Don Carlos Frujo, and Joseph Mendoza y Rios were among the visitors. The last-named guest was a Spaniard who wrote some works on astronomy. This year the Royal Society elected him a Fellow and he continued to reside in England.

1794. The Anniversary Meeting for 1794, held on 17th July, was attended by fourteen members, and the President took the chair. The Treasurer reported that his disbursements amounted to £54 5s. 4d. and that a balance of £17 4s. 4d. remained in his hands. The Fund for the expenses of the ensuing year was provided by a call of one guinea from each member. The number of members and guests who had dined since last Anniversary was 601.

There were no vacancies in the membership. The Treasurer, however, stated that Sir Charles Blagden had intimated to him that, with the approbation of the Club, he proposed to resign his situation as an elected member and retain the *ex officio* membership to which the Secretaryship of the Royal Society entitled him. This proposal was accepted with thanks. Whereupon the President observed that the circumstances attending his seat as an elected member being similar to those of Sir Charles Blagden, he also desired to resign it. This proposal being also accepted, two vacancies arose. These were at once filled up by ballot at the same meeting, and the Hon. Robert Fulke Greville and Bryan Edwards were elected. These new members had become Fellows of the Royal Society only a few weeks before, the former on 3rd April and the latter on 22nd May.

Bryan Edwards was a Jamaica merchant who while living in the colony took a prominent part in the business of the local Assembly. When he settled in England he entered Parliament as member for Grampound. He wrote a *History of the British Colonies in the West Indies* and other works.

There were hardly any foreign visitors this year. One of the names recorded is that of "M. de Saussure," invited by the President. The owner of this much respected name

was probably Nicolas Theodore, son of the illustrious Horace Benedict de Saussure, born in 1767. He accompanied his father in some of his journeys and ascents of the Swiss mountains. He inherited scientific tastes and devoted himself to physical science, especially to chemistry and vegetable physiology. He was elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society in 1820. He lived till 1845.

There were no specially outstanding personalities among the fresh visitors from Great Britain at the Club during this year. Lord Sheffield dined quietly with the President at two small dinners on January 9th and 23rd, probably when he was called to London by the condition of Gibbon, who died between those two dates. Major Alexander Dirom, who dined twice in the spring, had been Deputy Adjutant-general in the second Mysore war and published an account of the campaign against Tippoo Sultan. He was elected F.R.S. in July of this year. The "Mr. Lysons" whose name appears on the list for May 22 may be probably identified with the well-known antiquary and Keeper of the Records at the Tower of London, who was elected into the Royal Society in 1797 and became Treasurer of the Society in 1810. "Mr. Leslie," who was brought to the Club by Dr. Maskelyne this year, was possibly the able mathematician and natural philosopher John Leslie, who a few years later published his *Experimental Inquiry into the Nature and Properties of Heat*. He became Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh in 1819, and in recognition of his services to science he was knighted in 1832.

1795. In the year 1795 the Annual General Meeting, held on 2nd July, was attended by the following company :

Sir Joseph Banks, President

Earl of Morton
Hon. Henry Cavendish
Sir Charles Blagden
Richard Molesworth
George Best
Alexander Aubert
Major James Rennell
Joseph Planta

Viscount Palmerston
Samuel Wegg
Frederick A. Barnard
Dr. Nevil Maskeline
Dr. Samuel F. Simmons
Alexander Dalrymple
Sir Philip Stephens
William Marsden, Treasurer

The Treasurer's statement showed that his disbursements to complete payments of tavern bills since the previous Anniversary had amounted to £41 14s. and that a balance of £22 4s. 4d. remained in his hands. A call of one guinea from each member was ordered. From the official account-books it appears that the total number that dined at the Club since the previous Anniversary was 532, made up of 473 members and 59 visitors.

By the death of John Walsh a vacancy arose in the membership, which was filled by the election of John Symmons. The new member had become a Fellow of the Royal Society in the summer of the previous year.

A noteworthy incident deserves to be mentioned here. For the first time in its own records the Club was this year called by the name which it now bears. In the Account-book for 1794-5 a list of members is thus designated by the Treasurer "List of the Members of the Royal Society Club subsequent to Annual meeting on the 2d July 1795." The name is continued in subsequent Account-books. Up to the end of the Treasurership of William Russell, that is until 1787-8, the Account-book was that of "the Club of Royal Philosophers."

There are no foreign visitors of note in the records for this year. Of the home guests one or two may be mentioned. The President introduced "Mr. Petrie"—perhaps the antiquary, Henry Petrie, who afterwards succeeded to the keepership of the Tower Records. Henry Cavendish invited Henry Penruddock Wyndham who, having been mayor of Salisbury and Sheriff of Wiltshire, had devoted much attention to the antiquities and topography of the county which he afterwards represented for some years in Parliament. Moreover he had travelled in France and Italy and—a more unusual feat—had climbed Etna. Count von Rumford towards the end of the year dined twice with the Club, the first time on the invitation of Sir Charles Blagden, the second time on that of the President. This remarkable man, Benjamin Thompson by name, was born in Massachusetts in 1753. When the colonists were contending

with the mother-country, he showed such scant sympathy with them that he was put in prison. In the end he came to England, obtained a post in the Colonial Office, and devoted himself to scientific pursuits with such industry and success that he was elected into the Royal Society in April 1779. Next year he was appointed under-secretary for the Colonies and reappeared in his native country as a royalist and lieutenant-colonel in George III.'s American Dragoons. After this interlude in his career he appeared in Bavaria, in the employment of the Elector, under whom he was enabled to institute useful reforms and to confer such benefits on the population that when he left the country, after a residence in it of more than ten years, they raised a monument in his honour, and the Elector made him Count von Rumford. After he returned to England this year he soon began a course of useful activity such as he had shown on the Continent, made practicable suggestions for the improvement of domestic economy, and returned with renewed vigour to scientific research. He had acquired a fortune, and he was generous in the donations which he made towards furthering the cause of science. In this country he founded the Royal Institution, and he gave £1000 to the Royal Society for the purpose of instituting a medal to be given every second year as a premium for "the most important discovery or useful improvement in heat or light, preference being always given to such discoveries as shall tend most to promote the good of mankind."

1796. At the Annual General Meeting on 23rd June 1796, which was attended by eighteen members, the President presiding, the Treasurer's financial statement showed that his receipts amounted to £65 5s. 4d. and disbursements on tavern bills to £55 3s. 6d., leaving in his hands a balance of £10 1s. 10d. He reported that owing to the increase in the duties levied upon wines it would be necessary to increase the annual subscription of the members of the Club. The sum fixed upon was a guinea and a half. It was further reported that Mr. Edmund Turnor owing

to his inability to attend the meetings desired to withdraw from the Club, and that Dr. Heberden also "on account of his advanced age and the infirmity occasioned by an accident is deprived of the satisfaction of attending the meetings of the Club, and desires to withdraw his name." These resignations were accepted. It must have been with no little regret that the venerable Heberden severed his connection with a society with which he had been intimately associated for not much less than half a century; nor could the members view without concern the disappearance of the last of the old band who did so much in the early days of the Club to give it vitality and success.

The two vacancies thus arising were at once filled by the election by ballot of John G. Walker (F.R.S. 1794) and John Ord (F.R.S. 1780).

Foreign visitors continued to be few. The only one that need be recorded here is a "M. de Rossel," whom we may with some confidence identify as a scientific French sailor, the Chevalier de Rossel, who took part in the sea-fights of the Comte de Grasse with the English fleet. He joined the expedition sent out by France to discover traces of La Perouse, and at the end of many vicissitudes, became the head of that expedition. After a long stay in Batavia he embarked there in a Dutch vessel, taking with him all the papers containing the record of the expedition. He was captured, however, by one of our cruisers among the Shetland Isles, and taken to London in October 1795, remaining in this country until the Peace of Amiens in 1802. He was thus at this time a prisoner of war on parole, but so far from being interned in an insanitary camp, *more Teutonico*, he was evidently at large and free to accept the invitation to dine with the Club, under the kindly auspices of Alexander Dalrymple, the Hydrographer to the Admiralty. He spent the seven years of his exile in this country on the preparation of his narrative of the voyage in search of La Perouse, and his work in two quarto volumes with a folio atlas appeared in 1809.

On March 10th the President had as one of his guests

“Mr. Young.” By this time Thomas Young, when only twenty years of age, had flashed his brilliant genius upon the world. He had sent to the Royal Society in 1793 a paper on the crystalline lens of the eye, so original and important that on the 19th of June 1794, that is six days after his twenty-first birthday, he was elected F.R.S. We may believe that it was he who appeared at the Club this year for the first time. He was now only on the threshold of his marvellous but all too brief career, in which he ranged with the march of a giant through unexplored domains in science and literature, illuminating every subject on which he touched.

Another guest invited by the President was the eleventh Duke of Somerset who had succeeded to his title three years before at the age of eighteen. He became F.R.S. in 1797 and in later years took part in the affairs of the Linnaean and other Societies. He became President of the Royal Institution and for more than thirty years presided over the Royal Literary Fund. Other visitors in the course of the year were Captain Riou, Captain Vancouver, Mr. Shaw Lefevre, Admiral Dalrymple, Lord Valentia and Mr. Giddy (Gilbert).

1797. The Annual General Meeting for 1797, held on 13th July, was attended by the President and eighteen other members. The Treasurer reported that his disbursements, which, as usual, were almost entirely for the completion of the payment of tavern bills, amounted to £68 6s. 6d., leaving an unexpended balance of £6 17s. 4d. He pointed out that in consequence of the augmentation of the duties on wines, and also of the rise in the price of provisions, the expenses of the Club exceeded the sums hitherto voted, and that it was desirable that an addition should be made to the allowance which the landlord received. It was consequently agreed that an increase of two shillings for each member should be made to the sum of four shillings at present paid to him for dinner, and that of this increase “one shilling should be allowed to the landlord and one shilling should be applied towards the discharge of the

exceedings on Tavern bills." It was further resolved that an additional contribution of one guinea each should be collected from the members.

The death of Dr. Warren was announced, making a vacancy in the membership of the Club. The list of candidates, four in number, having been read, the names were severally put to the ballot, and they were all declared not elected.

It was resolved that a Rule of the Club should be enforced by which a Member who introduces a visitor is required to write down the name of such visitor at the time of introduction.

The dearth of foreign visitors continued through the present year, nor do any names of special note appear among the English guests. Lord Dundonald, invited by Sir Joseph Banks, was the ninth earl. After serving in the army and navy, he succeeded to the earldom in 1778, but being unfortunate in his attempts to turn chemistry to practical purposes, came to be in greatly reduced circumstances. He lived till 1831 when he was succeeded in the title by his son, the tenth earl and famous admiral. Other guests were Earl Spencer and Mr. Hatchett, who were soon to become members of the Club; Captain Salisbury, Dr. Pulteney, the botanist, Daniel Lysons and Captain Symes. Matthew Boulton was once more a visitor, introduced by Henry Cavendish, and Captain Riou likewise reappeared.

1798. At the Anniversary of 1798, held on 5th July, when the President and twelve other members were present, the Treasurer stated that his disbursements had come to £37 16s. 3d., leaving a balance of £10 7s. 1d. in his hands. The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed at a guinea. A vacancy which had remained over from last year was filled by the election of Charles Wilkins. This new member, proposed by Major Rennell, had been elected into the Royal Society ten years before. He was specially noted for his acquaintance with oriental languages. He was the first European to study Sanscrit inscriptions, and he published translations from the Sanscrit. He was knighted in 1833.

Among the foreign visitors this year was a Danish student

of two-and-twenty who had been given leave to quit for a time his post of secretary to the Royal Library of Copenhagen and come to England. This was no other than the future famous historian and scholar Barthold Georg Niebuhr. He spent three months in London and thereafter a year in Edinburgh, prosecuting with eager ardour the natural sciences and the studies which prepared him for the researches and speculations on which his reputation rests. He was brought twice to the Club in the summer by A. Dalrymple.

On the 8th November Sir Philip Stephens brought to the Club "M. Devaynes"—possibly the French literary man who made his salon in Paris a centre that attracted the society of the old régime, noblesse, men of letters, politicians and financiers, and who was nominated to the Institute of France a few weeks before his death in 1803.

Mr. Aubert introduced M. Pictet, possibly the Swiss agriculturist and diplomat, who wrote papers on English agriculture in the *Bibliothèque Britannique*.

The home guests this year included a number who have already been mentioned—Count Rumford, M. Boulton, Captain Bligh, Lord Sheffield and others. Among the fresh names were those of Lord Walsingham, Lord Egremont and Captain Mudge. The last-mentioned visitor, born in 1762, was a godson of Samuel Johnson who, it is recorded, when the youth was a student at the Royal Military College, Woolwich, paid him a visit and gave him a guinea and a book. Showing great capacity as a mathematician under Dr. Hutton, he was selected in 1791 for appointment to the Ordnance Trigonometrical Survey, of which in the course of seven years he became Director. He was one of the most efficient heads which that institution has ever had. He took a personal part in the extension of the measurement of the meridian through the whole length of Scotland up to the furthest point of the Shetland Isles. He likewise did good service in his guidance of the education of the cadets at Woolwich and Addiscombe.

1799. On 20th June 1799 the Annual General Meeting was attended by fifteen members with William Marsden in the

chair. The Treasurer announced that the disbursements for the past year had amounted to £49 12s., leaving an unexpended balance of £3 16s. 1d. The annual contribution from each member was again fixed at one guinea. Three vacancies were reported to have arisen from the death of William Seward and the resignation of Richard Molesworth and Sir George Baker. There were two candidates on the waiting list—Gilbert Blane, M.D. (F.R.S. 1784) and John Lloyd (F.R.S. 1774), each of whom was separately put to the ballot and elected. Sir Joseph Banks, as usual, was continued as President and W. Marsden as Treasurer.

No notable foreign visitors appeared at the Club this year, nor do any names of distinction occur among those of the home guests who have not already been mentioned. The "Mr. Chalmers" who dined on 7th February may have been George Chalmers, the antiquary, biographer, and historian, chiefly remembered for his valuable "*Caledonia*"—an uncompleted work full of diligently collected material regarding the antiquities of Scotland. Another guest was Sir Charles Warre Malet, who had seen much active service as administrator and diplomatist in India, having been Resident at Poona and acting Governor at Bombay. He was created baronet in 1791 and after his retirement and return to England he was elected into the Royal Society in 1806.

It may be mentioned that Henry Cavendish, for the first time during a quarter of a century, was this year present at only forty-six dinners of the Club, having been six weeks absent in February and March.

1800. The General Meeting in the year 1800 was held on 10th July when the following company was present :

Sir Joseph Banks, President

Hon. Henry Cavendish	Alexander Dalrymple
John Symmons	Thomas Astle
F. A. Barnard	Dr. P. Russell
Major Rennell	Dr. Blane
Dr. Samuel S. Simmons	Dr. Maskelyne
George Best	Alexander Aubert
Charles Wilkins	William Marsden



SIR EVERARD HOME, BART., SURGEON, F.R.S., 1787.

The Treasurer's statement gave the receipts as £51 1s. 1d. and the disbursements as £56 8s., showing a balance against the Club of £5 6s. 11d. The annual contribution was again fixed at one guinea. The total number of diners since the last anniversary was 620, comprising 557 members and 63 visitors.

Three vacancies in the membership were announced. One of these remained over from the previous year, the second arose from the death of Sir William Musgrave and the third from the resignation of Sir William Watson, who had been knighted in 1796 and had now retired to the country.¹ Three candidates were nominated for election and separately balloted for and were all elected, viz. Samuel Lysons, Everard Home, and John Towneley.

Samuel Lysons, barrister of the Inner Temple, was more particularly noted for his antiquarian proclivities and his authorship of a valuable work on the Romano-British antiquities of England. He became F.R.S. in 1797.

Everard Home, eminent as a surgeon, and created baronet in 1813, had been elected into the Royal Society in 1787. He was summoned to Clapham when Henry Cavendish was dying, and gave an account of the last hours of the philosopher to Sir John Barrow.²

John Towneley was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1797.

A few fresh visitors of note were entertained by the Club this year. Among these was the Chevalier de Bray, brought by Sir Charles Blagden. The President introduced Sir Richard Pepper Arden, a barrister of the Middle Temple, with a good University record, who entered parliament in 1782. In 1788 he became Master of the Rolls and in 1801 Lord Chief Justice, being then called to the House of Lords as Baron Alvanley. He is said to have possessed such wit and charm in conversation, that Pitt always insisted on sitting next to him when they met at the same dinner. But he is also reported to have had a quick temper which

¹ Son of Sir William Watson who died in 1787.

² *Sketches of the Royal Society and Royal Society Club*, 1849, p. 153.

at times would get the better of him, not only when sitting as a judge, but even at family worship in his own home. On one occasion, when he was conducting the service, one of the servants, who had stayed behind, amused himself by playing a violin. When his lordship heard the noise he suddenly paused and called out "will no one stop that fellow's d——d fiddling?"

Lord Henley, who dined on February 13th, had a singularly varied life as a diplomatist. Beginning as a Commoner, by name Morton Eden, he filled a succession of posts in the embassies to different countries of Europe—Bavaria, Copenhagen, Dresden, Saxe-Gotha, Berlin, Vienna and Madrid, and with so much satisfaction to the government that his services were further employed in 1794 by his being recalled from Spain and sent again as envoy extraordinary to Vienna, where he remained on duty for five years more. His merit had been recognised by his being created a Knight of the Bath and on his retirement in November in 1799 he was given an Irish peerage with the title of Baron Henley. He was elected into the Royal Society in the spring of 1800.

Henry Cavendish this year invited twice as his guest "Captain Huddart." This was probably Joseph Huddart whose history is noteworthy. He was a Cumberland lad who took to a sea-faring life and after some years so spent, entered the service of the East India Company. In 1778 he was appointed to the command of a merchant-ship in which he made four voyages to the East. He had shown early in life a liking for mathematics and surveying. In the course of his voyages he constantly took advantage of his opportunities to chart the harbours he visited and the coasts along which he sailed, constructing, among others, charts of Sumatra and the coast of India from Bombay to the mouth of the Godavery. When in 1788 he retired from the Company's service, he took to surveying among the Hebrides. His hydrographical qualifications and experience at sea led to his being appointed an Elder-Brother of the Trinity House (1791), and on November 17 in the same year he was elected into the Royal Society. He

invented a new and greatly improved method of making cables and ship-ropes, and this invention yielded him a considerable fortune. Such a career might well interest the recluse philosopher who brought him to the Club.

Sir John Coxe Hippisley, another of the President's guests, was a barrister of the Inner Temple who had performed diplomatic duties for the government and, for his services in negotiating the marriage of the Princess Royal with the Duke of Württemberg, had been created a baronet.

Admiral Young, invited by the Treasurer, after varied service in the North American Coast and among the Leeward Islands was for some time commander on the West African Station and had then the opportunity of being one of the explorers of the ancient burial-places on the Peak of Teneriffe. Thereafter he did duty in the East Indies, became commander of the Royal Yacht and after the action on the Dogger Bank in 1781 was knighted. He became rear-admiral and ten years later admiral. In 1792 he gave evidence against the slave trade before the bar of the House of Commons, and he was associated with Sir Joseph Banks in his efforts to establish a colony in New South Wales.

1801. At the General Meeting held on 2nd July 1801, Sir Joseph Banks, President, in the chair, and seventeen members present, the Treasurer submitted his accounts, from which it was shown that the expenses amounted to £63 os. 2d., the receipts to £40 19s., leaving a balance of £22 1s. 2d. due to him. To clear this liability off and to provide funds for the ensuing year it was resolved that the annual contribution of each member should be for this year two guineas. The entrance fee on election was raised to £2 2s.

Three vacancies were reported, two arising from the death of Sir George Staunton and Bryan Edwards, and the third from the resignation of Master Holford. They were filled by the election of Owen Putland Meyrick, Viscount Lewis-ham, and John Lloyd Williams. The first of these new members had been elected into the Royal Society in 1776; the second in 1781, and the third on 21st May of this year.

Viscount Lewisham had been some years in the House of Commons and this year he succeeded his father as third Earl of Dartmouth. Three years later he was appointed Lord Chamberlain.

The most notable visitor to the Club this year was the accomplished and original William Hyde Wollaston, M.D., who came on the invitation of Henry Cavendish. He was then in his thirty-fifth year, and had retired from medical practice the year before in order to devote himself to scientific research, especially in the domain of chemistry and mineralogy. To his inventive genius we owe the reflecting goniometer that bears his name, the camera lucida, and the method for making platinum malleable. He was the first to notice the dark lines in the solar spectrum. He discovered the metals palladium and rhodium. The Royal Society, into which he had been elected in 1793, chose him as one of its Secretaries in 1804 and when the Presidency became vacant in the summer of 1820 by the death of Sir Joseph Banks he was elected by the Council to fill the Presidential chair until the anniversary election on 30th November. He was generous in the disposal of his wealth. The Royal Society owes to him the establishment of its valuable Donation Fund. To the Geological Society, of which he was one of the earliest supporters, he bequeathed the fund that established the highest prize which the Society has to bestow—the Wollaston Medal—and also provided an annual income which has been so usefully employed to assist younger geologists in their labours. Sir Henry Holland has left his impression of Wollaston as he used to see him at Sir Joseph Banks' Sunday evening receptions in Soho Square—"Wollaston, sternly logical and sceptical, listening to others as if ever ready to refute or rebuke; and generally doing so by pungent questions to which few could venture to reply. I have often known a plausible theory, uttered by some one unconscious of Wollaston's presence, suddenly upset by two or three of these abrupt questions or comments."¹

¹ *Recollections of Past Life*, 2nd Edit. 1872, p. 213.

Dr. Charles Burney, musician and traveller, father of Madame D'Arblay and friend of Samuel Johnson, was again one of the Club's guests this year. Many other visitors of former years also reappeared—Sir William Hamilton, now back from Naples, Count Rumford, Captain Bligh, Captain Huddart (again invited by Cavendish), Lord Valentia, Charles Hatchett, Sir Henry Englefield and others.

1802. The Annual General Meeting for 1802 was held on 15th July, presided over by Sir Joseph Banks and attended by nineteen other members. The Treasurer reported that his receipts had been £85 rs., his disbursements £79 7s. 2d., leaving in his hands a balance of £5 13s. 10d. The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed at a guinea and a half.

Reference may be made here to an anonymous letter addressed to Marsden the Treasurer which he preserved and which has survived among the Club's papers. The reader has doubtless noticed the marked rise in the expenses of the Club, and possibly the document suggested one source of this rise. It will at least be seen that next year the Treasurer had an unwontedly large balance in hand. The letter, which bears the impress of the twopenny post and the date May 3rd 1802, is as follows :

A Hint to the Wise

If you make an observation what wine is drank at
The Crown and Anchor Tavern, you will find
Two, four and sometimes six bottles charged more
Than is drank by the Company, each day they dine.
Q in the Corner.

At this Annual General Meeting two vacancies were announced, one caused by the death of Viscount Palmerston (who had been a staunch supporter of the Club) ; the other by the non-attendance of John Thomas Stanley.¹ These vacancies were filled by the election of Charles Hatchett and Earl Spencer.

¹ The "discontinuance" of John Thomas Stanley was perhaps rather precipitate. He was re-elected seven years later and continued to be an active and useful member of the Club till he retired on account of age and infirmity in 1844.

Charles Hatchett wrote papers on chemical and mineralogical subjects, some of which found a place in the *Philosophical Transactions*. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1797. He would appear to have been possessed of great personal charm. Sir John Barrow, who knew him well in the Club, records that if a novelist were required to draw "the portrait of a person who, from the age of boyhood to that of an octogenarian, maintained under all circumstances the same uniform character of fun and frolic, good humour, good sense, kindness and benevolence, Charles Hatchett might be offered for the original." This lively and kindly being would seem to have thawed the icy reserve of Henry Cavendish who was so keenly interested in his election.

The second Earl Spencer had been made F.R.S. in 1780 when he was Viscount Althorp. He sat in the House of Commons from 1780 to 1783 when, on succeeding to his father's title, he entered the House of Lords. Appointed First Lord of the Admiralty in 1794, he held that responsible office for more than six years—the most famous time in the history of the British navy. He was Home Secretary in 1806-7 and thereafter devoted himself to county business and to literary and scientific studies. His wife was one of the most famous hostesses of her day.

Owing to the long continuance of the war with France there were for some years few continental visitors to the Royal Society or its Club. This year, indeed, witnessed the conclusion of peace and the signing of the Treaty of Amiens on March 27th. The political horizon, however, seemed still too cloudy to permit the current of foreign visitors to begin to flow once more towards London. A few official Frenchmen crossed the Channel and were straightway captured by Sir Joseph Banks for the Club. He invited for the 12th August three eminent men who occupied important official positions in their own country. Two of them—Antoine Augustin Parmentier and Jean Baptiste Huzard, members of the lately organised Institute of France, were noted agriculturists who had rendered important service to their fatherland in the troublous times through which France

had passed since the overthrow of the Monarchy. The third guest, Charles Étienne Coquebert de Montbret, was a naturalist who, having served in various consular employments, was now sent to this country as consul-general specially charged with the affairs of the French prisoners of war in England. He was appointed to the Legion of Honour in the following year and in 1809 the title of Baron was conferred on him. On four subsequent occasions this year he dined with the Club.

Besides these more or less official personages one notable man of science found his way to England this year—the famous chemist, geologist and mineralogist Alexandre Brongniart, who besides his contributions to science did so much to improve the ceramic arts in France. He dined with the Club twice in the autumn. More than twenty years later he was elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society.

The home visitors this year included a few who had not previously been entertained. One of these, Lord Webb Seymour, son of the Duke of Somerset, was elected F.R.S. on 11th November this year. He settled in Edinburgh where he became the intimate friend of Playfair, Hall and the other members of the little group of geologists who were contending against the Wernerian doctrines espoused and promulgated by Robert Jameson from the natural history chair in the University. He took part with Playfair in the examination of the classic sections of intrusive granite veins in Glen Tilt which had so delighted Hutton, whose interpretation of them had been contemptuously rejected by the followers of Werner. Lord Webb Seymour prepared the important conjoint memoir embodying the results of their examination which was published in 1816 in the seventh volume of the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*. Lord Webb dined twice with the Club, the first time just before and the second immediately after his election into the Royal Society. Among the familiar faces that appeared at the Club's table were those of Sir William Hamilton, Captain Bligh, Sir James Hall, Mendoza y Rios and others.

1803. At the Anniversary of the Club on 7th July 1803, which was attended by eighteen members, William Marsden being in the chair, the Treasurer made the welcome announcement that the amount of his disbursements had fallen to £25 19s., less than half of what they had been in the previous year, while his receipts amounted to £68 12s. 10d., so that the balance remaining in his hands amounted to so large a sum (£42 13s. 10d.) that he considered it adequate to the probable expenses of the Club during the year and that it was therefore not necessary to call for any contribution from the members. He reported that two vacancies had arisen in the membership owing to the death of William M. Godschall and Samuel Wegg, and that a third would be caused by the desire of Thomas Astle, on account of the state of his health, to resign his place in the Club. This resignation having been accepted, the only candidate brought forward was Mr. Aylmer Bourke Lambert, who on a ballot was elected. He became F.R.S. in 1791. One of the original members of the Linnean Society, he continued to be one of its vice-presidents for nearly fifty years up to the time of his death. He was a good botanist, and, besides separate papers, he published a monograph in three volumes on the genus *Pinus*.

The peace of Amiens did not last long, for the war with France broke out again in the early summer of this year and any social intercommunication with the continent was once more cut off. M. Coquebert de Montbret dined again with the Club on 13th January, but he must have quitted England not long after that date. Charles Towneley brought on 26th of May the Prince Bailli Ruspoli to dine and the President introduced Olaus Warberg, who in 1805 was made F.R.S. But the foreign element was almost wholly absent from the symposia of the Philosophers for more than a dozen of years from this time.

Several peers who were this year elected into the Royal Society were invited to the Club—the Earl of Glandore, Viscount Charleville, and the Baron de Blaquièrre. Another fresh F.R.S., Sir George Thomas Staunton, whose father had



ADMIRAL PHILIPPE D'AUVERGNE, DUC DE BOUILLON,
R.N., F.R.S., 1786.

been so long an active member of the Club, was likewise entertained. Other new guests were William Lax, Loundes Professor of Astronomy and Geometry at Cambridge ; Richard Chenevix, chemist and mineralogist, who had been elected into the Royal Society two years before ; and Viscount Castlereagh, who had been made F.R.S. in the previous year. Captain Philip d'Auvergne, now Duc de Bouillon, took his place as a member on 28th July. Dr. Wollaston dined several times with the Club, once on the invitation of Cavendish. Professor Playfair of Edinburgh reappeared at a succession of dinners in August and September and his intimate friend Lord Webb Seymour came twice a little earlier in the year. A "Mr. Jameson" appears twice on the dinner lists, but there is no certain evidence that this was the redoubted pupil of Werner who had returned from Freiberg to preach the Neptunist creed of his master in opposition to the Vulcanist views of Hutton, Playfair and Hall. He had by this time published his "Mineralogy of the Scottish Isles," wherein he threw down the gauntlet to the Scottish school, and in the following year he was appointed to the chair of natural history in the University of Edinburgh.

1804. The Annual General Meeting in 1804 was held on 28th June, and was attended by twenty members, Sir Joseph Banks in the chair. The Treasurer's financial forecast last year proved correct. His expenses were £26 16s. 9d. and he still had an unexpended balance of £17 19s. 1d. The balance remaining in the Fund, though much less than last year, was considered to be sufficient to warrant that no call should be made on the members for a contribution. One vacancy on the list of membership was caused by the death of John Topham, but as there was no candidate on the list, no new election took place. William Marsden intimated that the pressure of his official duties would prevent him from continuing to fill the office of Treasurer. Matthew Raper was requested to undertake the duties of the office, and the thanks of the members were tendered to the retiring Treasurer for his care of their accounts

during the sixteen years in which he had taken charge of them.

There were no fresh names of special note among the visitors this year. On March 1st "Mr. Constable" dined with the Club. He was probably the Edinburgh printer, friend of Walter Scott and publisher of the *Waverley Novels* and of the *Edinburgh Review*.

The "Mr. Roscoe" on May 3rd we may believe to have been the well-known historian of Lorenzo de' Medici and Leo X. The Professor Robertson invited by Maskelyne was doubtless Abraham Robertson, Savilian Professor of Geometry at Oxford. His history was a remarkable example of success in the face of extraordinary difficulties. Born of poor parentage in Berwickshire he came to London, where he received his schooling at Westminster and returned to the north as a schoolmaster. When about four-and-twenty years of age he came again to London, but failed to obtain there the appointment which he was seeking. He then made his way to Oxford, where, by dint of his own abilities and industry, he succeeded in matriculating at Christchurch and obtaining in due course the degrees of B.A. and M.A. After taking orders he became one of the chaplains of his College. In 1792 he published a treatise on Conic Sections which may have led to his election into the Royal Society in 1795 and to his appointment to the Savilian professorship of geometry in 1797. When the Savilian Professor of Astronomy, who early recognised his merit and had befriended him in his career, retired from that chair in 1810, Robertson was appointed to succeed him and held the professorship until his death in 1826.

The eleventh Duke of Somerset, another visitor noted for his interest in literary and scientific pursuits, was next year elected a member of the Club. Other titled guests were Lord Kirkwall, Lord de Blaquièrre, Sir Gounod Knatchbull, Sir Thomas Hanmer, Sir George Lee, and Sir J. P. Dalrymple. Professor John Playfair, whose admirable volume of "*Illustrations of the Huttonian Theory*" published in the spring of 1802 was now arresting the attention of

students of the history of the globe, was again brought to the Club by his friend Maskelyne on September 13th, when Maskelyne himself took the chair, supported by Henry Cavendish, Everard Home, Alexander Aubert, and Charles Hatchett.

1805. The Annual General Meeting in 1805 was held on 11th July and the following company was then present :

Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. President

Samuel Lysons	Alexander Dalrymple
John Symmons	Nevil Maskelyne D.D.
Frederick Barnard	Hon. Henry Cavendish
John Towneley	John Walker
Dr. S. F. Simmons	Charles Hatchett
Major Rennell	Everard Home
William Parsons	Charles Wilkins
Dr. Gilbert Blane	William Marsden
Dr. John Hunter	Matthew Raper, Treasurer

The new Treasurer made his first financial statement which showed that the disbursements to complete payment of tavern bills amounted to £38 10s. 3d. and that the Fund had to meet a deficiency of £20 11s. 2d. To clear off this debt and to provide for the expenses of the ensuing year a call on the members was made for one guinea. An examination of the Dinner-registers shows that during the year since the last anniversary the number of persons who dined at the Club was 711, and that of these 68 were visitors and 643 members.

The death of Dr. Patrick Russell, Sir George Shuckburgh Evelyn and Charles Towneley was announced. As three places were left unfilled at the preceding election, the total number of vacancies now existing amounted to six. There were four candidates on the list. Their names being put separately to the ballot, they were all elected, namely Henry Penruddock Wyndham (F.R.S. 1783), Colonel Roger Elliot Roberts (F.R.S. 1801), Edward Adolphus, eleventh Duke of Somerset (F.R.S. 1797), and David Pitcairn, M.D. (F.R.S. 1782).

The visitor most interesting this year to the members

of the Club at that time was probably the Bishop of St. Asaph. Under that ecclesiastical title this guest was none other than their old associate Dr. Samuel Horsley. It will be remembered that in the years 1783-84 he was one of the leaders in opposition to the President and Council of the Royal Society, and that by the votes of the general body of the Fellows he was decisively worsted ; that he thereupon resigned his connection with the Society, and by absenting himself from the meetings of the Club lost his place there and was formally removed from the list of members. Twenty years had slipped away since that schism, and Dr. Horsley had never once been again at the meetings of the Club. These were years of great activity on his part, however, though not in the scientific procedure of the Royal Society. He threw himself with all his vigour into the ecclesiastical field, occupying successively the bishoprics of St. David's, Rochester, and now of St. Asaph. Besides the duties of his see, he took part in the debates in the House of Lords, plunged into public controversy, such as that with Priestley, and yet found time to edit and publish a collected edition of the works of Sir Isaac Newton.

On 20th of June this year the Bishop was introduced to the Club by the President, and there were present, besides Sir Joseph Banks, some of those who had most vehemently opposed the Reverend Doctor in his contest with the President and Council, and resented the arrogance and truculence of his attack. In the records of the Club there is no mention of what led to his reappearance ; whether the long-deferred reconciliation came about on his suggestion or on that of Banks or another member of the Club. We can well believe that his separation from the Royal Society, and all that its membership meant for a man of science, had probably been a subject of regret to him all these years, and the recollection of the painful circumstances which attended that rupture would make his regret all the keener. He was now past seventy years of age, and it may have been his own wish not to go down to the grave without an effort at reconciliation. As we shall

find in the records of next year he reappeared once more at the Club.

The visitors this year included the Comte de St. Amand; the second Baron Henniker; Lord Kirkwall; also Samuel Vince, who in 1796 had succeeded to the Plumian professorship of Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy at Cambridge, which he held till his death in 1821. It is an odd coincidence that by mere chance two men, each of whom had brought to notice a new British mineral which had been named after him, should both have dined with the Club on different days in the month of May this year—Dr. Henry Beeke, Fellow of Oriel, Professor of Modern History at Oxford and afterwards Dean of Bristol, and Dr. Wavell. In compliment to the former, a chalcedonic chert from the New Red Sandstone of Devonshire, to which he first called attention, was named Beekite; while an interesting subphosphate of alumina which Dr. Wavell discovered in the same county was named Wavellite.

1806. The Anniversary in 1806 was held on 3rd July and was attended by nineteen members and also the Bishop of St. Asaph, Sir Joseph Banks taking the chair. The Treasurer announced that his disbursements on account of tavern-bills had amounted to £34 17s., leaving a balance against the Club of £13 8s. 2d. It was agreed that each member should contribute a guinea to clear off this deficiency and provide for the needs of the ensuing year.

Two members had died since the last Anniversary—Welbore Ellis Agar and Alexander Aubert. Two had not attended nor paid their contributions for two years, but the Club was now less rigorous in enforcing the regulation against non-attendance, and these defaulters were not yet struck off the list of members. The Duke of Somerset, however, had not attended any meeting since his election nor paid his admission fee. He had thus neglected to qualify himself and he was declared to have forfeited his membership. Five vacancies remained to be filled and there were four candidates for election. On being severally put to the ballot they were all elected, viz. the Rev.

Stephen Weston (F.R.S. 1792), Viscount Kirkwall, eldest son of the Earl of Orkney (F.R.S. 1804), Thomas Murdoch (F.R.S. 1805), Dr. Charles Burney (F.R.S. 1802).

Stephen Weston was born in Exeter, of which his grandfather had been bishop, and was educated at Oxford, where he became a Fellow of Exeter College. He is remembered for his letters from Paris during the time of the Revolution, and for his antiquarian papers and oriental translations.

The Rev. Charles Burney, son of the musician, was reputed to be one of the best Greek scholars of his day in this country. He formed a large and valuable library of classical authors which, on his death in 1817, was purchased for the nation and placed in the British Museum.

Although it had now become the settled practice that visitors did not attend the annual General Meetings, Dr. Horsley presented himself this year, and we may be sure that he received a friendly welcome. Indeed, the cordiality of his reception seems to have led to a curious misunderstanding on the part of the new Treasurer, as will be seen in the proceedings of the next Anniversary. The Bishop was not a member of the Club, and yet he could hardly be looked upon as a visitor from the world outside. There was a pathetic interest in his presence among his old associates that day—Banks, Maskelyne, Cavendish, Dalrymple, and others—for the impression may have been more or less definitely present to his mind, if not to theirs, that it was probably the last time he would be with them. He may have felt that his end was near and that it was well worth while to make the effort to meet them once more at their yearly festival. He lived only three months longer and died on the 4th October following.

The visitors this year included a few fresh names of some note. On 9th January Maskelyne introduced his friend the Rev. John Brinkley, a distinguished Cambridge graduate and first Smith's prizeman, who after assisting for some years in the work of Greenwich observatory was on Maskelyne's recommendation appointed in 1792 the first Astronomer Royal for Ireland, and put in charge of the

College observatory at Dunsink. With much energy he raised this observatory from a position of insignificance to one of first importance in the study of the heavens. His success was much appreciated in Ireland where he received a succession of ecclesiastical preferments, ending in 1826 with the bishopric of Cloyne. He had been made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1803 and received the Society's Copley Medal in 1824. But the duties of his bishopric, to which he devoted himself with as much zeal as he had shown in his astronomical career, left him little time for continuing his scientific pursuits.

William Charles Wells, who dined twice with the Club, first on the invitation of the Astronomer Royal and then on that of the President, was born in South Carolina of Scottish parents who had emigrated to that state, and who sent him to Edinburgh for his education. He studied medicine there, also in London and Leyden, and eventually settled as a medical practitioner in London. But though he never acquired a large practice and was obliged to live frugally, he made a name which will never be forgotten in the records of meteorology, for he first solved in 1814 the problem of the origin of Dew. He had already in 1793 been admitted to the fellowship of the Royal Society, and the Society promptly testified its appreciation of his remarkable "Essay on Dew" by awarding to him the Rumford Medal.

The name of "Mr. Carlisle" on the dinner lists this year and subsequently, year after year, is probably that of Anthony Carlisle, a noted surgeon in his day, and most clubbable man, who is remembered for some of the useful improvements devised by him in surgical implements and methods. He was knighted in 1820, and was for sixteen years Professor of Anatomy at the Royal Academy.

Another name, that of "Mr. Davy," occurs for the first time in the Dinner-register of this year. On the 20th March Sir Joseph Banks introduced the future Sir Humphry Davy to the Club. Already in his 28th year he had made his mark as an original observer and a popular exponent of science at the Royal Institution.

Among the guests were Lord Mahon, afterwards Earl Stanhope, who next year was made F.R.S. ; Lord Carrington, who as Robert Smith sat in the House of Commons as Member for Nottingham, and in acknowledgment of his political services to Pitt was raised into the peerage ; the fifth Earl of Selkirk, specially notable for his life-long efforts to promote emigration from Scotland to the North American Colonies ; and Lord John Thynne. In May and again in June the President had Sir James Hall and Professor John Playfair to meet each other at the Club.

1807. The Annual General Meeting was held in 1807 on 25th June and was attended by twenty-four members, the President, Sir Joseph Banks, in the chair. The Treasurer's statement showed that his disbursements were almost exactly the same as those of last year, but that instead of an adverse balance, he had come to the end of the financial year with fourteen shillings and twopence in hand. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at one guinea.

The Treasurer reported that the Earl of Dartmouth (formerly Viscount Lewisham), the Duc de Bouillon, the Rev. Sir Richard Kaye, Bart., John Lloyd, O. P. Meyrick and John Ord "had not attended any meeting since the last anniversary nor sent any excuse for not having done so." It was resolved that all these members, with the exception of Lord Dartmouth and Mr. Lloyd, "are no longer members of the Club and in consequence that there are five vacancies, one having remained from last year." There were two candidates on the list, one of whom, after a ballot, was declared to be duly elected. This new member, Arthur Annesley, eighth Viscount Valentia, had in previous years dined as a guest from time to time. He had been elected into the Royal Society on 24th November 1796.

One paragraph in the Minutes of this Anniversary which calls for a remark may be inserted here : "The Treasurer reported the death of the Bishop of St. Asaph, but he being a member *ex officio*, no vacancy was created thereby." The Treasurer, Matthew Raper, who had been elected into



THOMAS YOUNG, M.D., F.R.S., 1794.

Foreign Secretary, R.S., 1802-1829.

PLATE XXIV

To face page 224.

the Royal Society when the cabal against Sir Joseph Banks was gathering force, and who joined the Club in 1787 when the recollection of the dispeace was still fresh, cannot have forgotten that the Bishop had been formally "discontinued" by the Club, and for twenty years had been no longer a member. The Club records contain no trace of any proposal for his re-election, and such re-election would have been necessary before he could take his place as a member. It is conceivable that the cordiality with which he was received may have led the Treasurer into the assumption that he had been practically taken back into membership. But it is difficult to account for the deliberate insertion of the mistake in the Minutes and for the failure to have it corrected if the statement was read to the Club at this Anniversary.

Another *ex officio* member now entered the Club owing to a change in the official staff of the Royal Society. On the 22nd January 1807 Humphry Davy was elected one of the Secretaries of the Society. By the brilliance of his chemical discoveries and his remarkably attractive powers of exposition this young man had rapidly gained a place among the foremost men of science in the country. The Royal Society had elected him into its ranks in 1803 when he was only twenty-five years of age and had awarded him its greatest prize, the Copley Medal, in 1807, on the same day on which it chose him as one of its Secretaries. Yet he was only on the threshold of his remarkable career of discovery and invention. Upwards of twenty strenuous and fruitful years were before him until, worn out with toil, he died when only in the fifty-first year of his age. Sir Henry Holland, who watched him in his early years, has left a recollection of him as he appeared at Sir Joseph Banks' assemblies and at the lecture theatre in Albemarle Street. "At those parties, the youthful and more elastic genius of Davy came in striking contrast to the inflexibility of Wollaston and the *umbratilis vita* and hereditary taciturnity of Cavendish. His early successes in science had emboldened a mind naturally ardent and speculative; and I well

remember the eagerness with which men clustered around him to listen to his eloquent anticipations of future progress, many of these now more than fulfilled. His lectures at the Royal Institution, novel and earnest in manner, and invigorated by the succession of discoveries they recorded, brought crowds of admiring hearers." ¹ It was on the 26th February, just a month after his election to the Secretaryship, that Davy availed himself of his right to assume his place as an *ex officio* member of the Club, and he continued for many years to take an active interest in its affairs.

The visitors this year included some men of marked distinction in different branches of science. Foremost among them was Dr. Thomas Young, the trained physician, brilliant physicist and pioneer Egyptologist. Probably no man in the history of English science has possessed a wider range of acquirement or shown a greater originality alike in physical and physiological research and linguistic studies. After going through a complete medical training in London and Edinburgh he took a medical degree at Göttingen and again at Cambridge, and for some years practised the profession of a physician. But he was able to devote himself also to the prosecution of research in different branches of science. His remarkable paper on the structure of the crystalline lens of the eye led to his election into the Royal Society in 1794 when he was only twenty-one years of age. In 1801 he was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy at the Royal Institution, but soon resigned the post to carry on the series of investigations on the theory of light and colours, and on capillary action, on which his high reputation in physical science mainly rests. Thus on the one side he might appear to be a philosopher absorbed in original research, on the other side he was known to be a physician engaged in the daily calling of his profession and in lecturing on medical subjects at the College of Physicians. Yet there was still another avenue along which his amazing industry led him far; he found time to work

¹ *Recollections of Past Life*, p. 213.

at Egyptian hieroglyphics and to discover the key to their interpretation. Helmholtz has recorded of him that "he had the misfortune to be too greatly superior in sagacity to his contemporaries. They gazed at him with astonishment, but they could not always follow the bold flights of his intellect, and thus a multitude of his most important ideas lay buried and forgotten in the great tomes of the Royal Society of London, until a later generation re-made his discoveries, and convinced itself of the accuracy and force of his inferences." With all this weight of learning and this wide range of scientific and literary activity Dr. Young preserved his youthful simplicity and gaiety of manner. Sir Henry Holland has left an interesting picture of this side of his nature. "His profound and very varied knowledge was concealed under a certain spruceness of dress, demeanour and voice, which strangely contradicted his Quaker origin, and perplexed those who had known him only from his scientific fame. I have seen the discoverer of some of the grandest and most occult laws of Light, loitering with ladies in a fashionable shop in Bond Street, helping them in the choice of ribbons and other millinery. But what might be deemed affectation was in Dr. Young not really such, but genuine courtesy and kindness of heart."¹

This genial and gifted philosopher was chosen by the Royal Society in 1804 to be its Foreign Secretary, but he did not at once join the Club.

Dr. Maskelyne brought this year some young men of science to the Club who became famous in later years. On 8th May he introduced his friend John Pond, who in a few years succeeded him as Astronomer Royal and also as an *ex officio* member of the Royal Society Club, of whom more will be said on a later page. On the 4th of June Maskelyne had as his guests two Scotsmen destined to attain a high position in physical science—David Brewster and John Leslie.

Brewster was at this time only six-and-twenty and had not begun that scientific life which raised him into eminence.

¹ *Recollections of Past Life*, 2nd Edit. p. 214.

He was educated for the Church, had now actually passed all his examinations and had been licensed as a preacher in the Scottish Kirk ; but finding himself, owing to a nervous disability, debarred from continuing in the ministry, he gave up the clerical profession and took to physical science, for which even from boyhood he had shown special aptitude. Devoting himself to the study of light and the problems of optics he achieved before many years a world-wide reputation as an original investigator and one of the most energetic advocates of the cause of science. Besides his purely scientific papers, he became a prolific writer of reviews, articles and other contributions to scientific and literary publications. It is to be remembered also that he was one of the original founders of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. He will appear again in these pages when the main part of his active life had passed and when he was universally respected as one of the notable philosophers of his day.

Maskelyne's second guest, John Leslie, has already been referred to (p. 201). He like Brewster had been meant to enter the Church of Scotland, but his bent towards mathematics and natural philosophy was so strong that he abandoned a clerical calling and spent ten years in an investigation of the nature and properties of Heat. The work which he published on this subject in 1804 gave him at once an European reputation. The Royal Society promptly recognised the importance of his research by awarding him the Rumford Medal, and his name occurs immediately after that of Count Rumford at the head of the brilliant list of Medallists. He became Professor of Mathematics at Edinburgh when John Playfair exchanged this chair for that of Natural Philosophy, and when Playfair died in 1819 Leslie was with general approbation appointed successor to that distinguished man. He was the author of many treatises, papers and articles, and in 1832 he received royal recognition by being knighted.

On the 8th October Humphry Davy introduced to the Club George Bellas Greenough—a name held in veneration

by English geologists as that of the most strenuous of the founders of the Geological Society of London. He was mainly instrumental in bringing that Society this year into being, in spite of the opposition of Sir Joseph Banks and other prominent members of the Royal Society, who thought that the rise of a new scientific body would damage the prestige of their venerable institution unless made subordinate to it. He was naturally chosen the first President of the infant Society, and for more than forty years continued to watch over its progress with paternal interest.

This year Henry Cavendish, who had for some time had no guests at the Club, introduced the Spanish astronomer Mendoza y Rios (already mentioned, p. 200), who was now settled in London.

1808. The Annual General Meeting in 1808 was held on July 14th and was attended by nineteen members, Sir Joseph Banks presiding. According to the Treasurer's statement the disbursements to complete payment of tavern-bills amounted to £42 6s. 6d. and an adverse balance of £5 4s. 8d. remained to be cleared off. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at a guinea and a half.

The death of Alexander Dalrymple was announced. Five new members were duly elected, viz. Davies Giddy (Gilbert), Benjamin Hobhouse, John Barrow, John Rennie and Sir James Hall.

Davies Giddy (Gilbert, F.R.S. 1791) has been already mentioned (p. 195). Benjamin Hobhouse (F.R.S. 1798), barrister of the Middle Temple and member of Parliament, retired from political life in 1818 and devoted his attention to the affairs of the societies and institutions with which he was connected. He had been from time to time a guest of the Club, and it may be mentioned that Henry Cavendish seems to have been so desirous to see him become a member that in the spring of this year he twice invited him to the dinner. This new member proved to be one of the most efficient in the Club.

John Barrow (F.R.S. 1805), accompanied Lord Macartney's embassy to China in 1792-4 and came into public notice

as the author of an account of his visit to China and South Africa. He received in 1804 an appointment in the secretarial department of the Admiralty, and for forty years he continued to serve in that branch of the public service, becoming eventually chief secretary and devoting his whole energies to the duties of his office. But he took keen interest in naval and geographical questions outside strictly official lines. To him was due the first proposal that the Admiralty should endeavour to discover the much discussed North-west Passage, and this proposal opened the way for the long series of Arctic and Antarctic voyages of discovery. Barrow was a prolific writer of articles and reviews.¹ To members of the Royal Society Club his volume of "Sketches of the Royal Society and Royal Society Club" is of special interest, with its personal impressions of some of the more eminent of the members. He died in 1848 at the age of eighty-four.

John Rennie (F.R.S. 1798), an accomplished civil and mechanical engineer who gained a wide reputation as a constructor of canals and bridges. London Bridge and Waterloo Bridge are examples of his taste and skill in architectural design. He likewise built the great break-water at Plymouth. The public respect entertained for him was shown in 1821 when he died; he was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Sir James Hall, Bart., of Dunglass, has been already referred to as a frequent guest of the Club of which he now became a member. When he found that Hutton would not countenance his experiments in proof of some of the disputed parts of that great master's Theory of the Earth, he laid aside the efforts which he was disposed to make in that direction. But after Hutton died in 1797 he took up the subject again, and by a series of ingeniously devised experiments not only confirmed Hutton's asser-

¹ It is said that Mr. Murray his publisher surprised him one day by presenting him with ten portly and handsomely-bound volumes containing Essays of his own composition, selected from the *Quarterly Review*, and comprising at least one-fourth part of that periodical, as it then existed. Barrow's *Sketches of the Royal Society*, 1849, p. 211.

tions, but became himself the true founder of Experimental Geology.

The list of visitors this year contains no fresh names that need be recorded here.

1809. At the Anniversary Meeting for 1809, which was held on 29th June and was attended by twenty-six members, with the President in the chair, the Treasurer reported that as there remained in his hands a balance of £20 13s. 4d. he did not propose to make any call on the members for a contribution to the Fund. He announced the death of Dr. Hunter and Dr. Pitcairn. As the result of a ballot of the candidates, Sir John Thomas Stanley, Bart., and John George Children were declared duly elected.

Sir John Stanley had already been elected a member of the Club in 1791, but he lost his membership in 1802 by non-attendance. In the interval he had succeeded to a baronetcy and he now proved an assiduous and useful member. In 1839 he was created the first Baron Stanley of Alderley. Mr. Children became F.R.S. in 1807. He was interested in mechanics, mineralogy and chemistry. He made experiments in chemical research with a larger galvanic battery than had previously been used. Among his results was the discovery of a new method of extracting silver. He had much liking also for entomology. He assisted in the foundation of the Entomological Society and became its president. In 1826 he was elected one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society.

No prominent names appear in the list of visitors during this year. Everard Home frequently brought to the Club William Thomas Brande, the chemist, who on 13th April this year was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. In 1813 he succeeded Sir Humphry Davy as Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Institution. "Mr. Brodie" who appeared twice as the guest of Everard Home was probably the future Sir Benjamin, who has given in his autobiographical memoir such pleasant sketches of eminent men whom he knew. The "Mr. Cadell" who was introduced twice in

November by Humphry Davy may be conjectured to have been William Archibald Cadell, a Scottish advocate with a landed estate and antiquarian tastes, given to travel, and yet anchored to the valley of the Forth, where he was one of the founders of the successful Carron Ironworks. He was a friend of Sir Joseph Banks, who promoted his election into the Royal Society, which took place in the summer of the following year. A number of former guests reappeared in the course of the year. Among these may be mentioned Mr. Carlisle, Sir George Staunton, Lord Dundas, John Playfair, Dr. Edward Knatchbull and Dr. Latham. On 22nd June Henry Cavendish, who was present at every meeting of the Club throughout the year, for the last time invited a guest, whose name appears on the list for the day as "Mr. Cockshutt."

1810. The Anniversary Meeting of the Club in 1810 took place on the 19th July and was attended by the following members :

Matthew Raper, Treasurer

Everard Home	William Marsden
Charles Wilkins	John Symmons
William Parsons	Dr. S. F. Simmons
Samuel Lysons	Stephen Weston
Dr. Nevil Maskelyne	Thomas Murdoch
Frederick Barnard	Hon. Colonel Robert F. Greville
John Walker	Major Rennell

Dr. William Hyde Wollaston

The Treasurer had to announce that his decision of last year to levy no contribution from the members had left him at the end of the financial year with a deficit of £31 16s. 8d., the disbursements to defray the balance of tavern-bills having mounted up to £58 5s. 6d. To clear off this adverse balance and to provide for the expenses of the coming year a contribution of two guineas was levied on each member of the Club. The expenses now began to increase rapidly year by year and the contribution from each member was proportionally augmented. The number of diners at the Club since the last Anniversary was 904, of whom 779 were members and 125 visitors.

The death was announced of Henry Cavendish and Sir Philip Stephens. These two vacancies were filled by the election of Samuel Goodenough, Bishop of Carlisle, and Lord Dundas.

The Bishop of Carlisle had the reputation of being a good botanist, a scholar and a preacher of considerable eminence. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1789. It was one of his sermons to the House of Lords which called forth the epigram :

'Tis well enough that Goodenough
Before the Lords should preach ;
But sure enough, full bad enough
Are those he has to teach.

The Bishop proved an assiduous member of the Club as the weekly registers for the succeeding years fully show.

Henry Cavendish, who had attended every dinner, 51 in all, during 1809 continued to take his accustomed place at each meeting in January and the first half of February in the following year. He did not appear on the 22nd of that month nor on March 1st or 8th. He died on the 10th. Evidently he retained his health and was able to pursue the accustomed ways of his life up to about a fortnight before the end. Before passing on from the narrative of his career we may look back at one feature of it on which the records of the Royal Society Club throw some little light—the friendships or at least acquaintanceships which his austere and lonely nature permitted him to cultivate. The members of the Royal Society Club saw far more of him than any other of his contemporaries, but they have left somewhat meagre recollections of his personality. The weekly journals so sedulously kept by the Club throughout the whole of his lifetime record his presence at the meetings and give the name of every guest whom he introduced throughout the whole course of his membership, extending over half a century. Allusion has already been made (p. 74) to the testimony of these records as to Cavendish's selection of guests, but it may be well to look a little more closely into the whole evidence to the end of which we have now come.

Putting aside the candidates for admission into the Club for whom Cavendish good-naturedly did his part in inviting them to the dinners, we come upon a number of names of guests whom he asked to come to the Club, evidently for their own sakes and the interest he took in them or in their pursuits. As already pointed out he evidently enjoyed the companionship of the Rev. John Michell, who for some years dined frequently at the invitation of different members, and whom Cavendish again and again had beside him as his own guest. He chose to invite such men as Daniel Solander, General Roy, Benjamin Franklin, Count de Salis, Captain Phipps, Francis Maseres, Dr. Ingenhousz, Baron Fabroni, Abbé Fontana, William Hyde Wollaston, Dr. Charles Hutton, Professor William Ogilvie, John Belchier, Mr. Wedgwood, Matthew Boulton, Captain Riou, Captain Huddart, and others. Sometimes he had two guests at a time, as for example, Solander and Geissler, Roy and Solander, Franklin and Comyns, Belchier and Hawkins Brown, Maseres and Hemming, Duane and Fabroni, Ingenhousz and Fontana, Belchier and Jodrell, Fabroni and Maseres, Holford and Ogilvie. These doubles were most frequent in the years 1778-1781, after which they ceased. If we may judge of Cavendish from the personality of his guests we see that he must have had sympathies and interests a good deal wider than those of the laboratory in which he spent so much of his time and thought. He chose as his companions at the table not only mathematicians and men of science, but politicians, manufacturers, medical men, engineers, surgeons, explorers and many more. He would seem to have had a special regard for seamen and their exploits. He more than once had Captain Phipps at his side, who could tell of the work of the Navy and the excitement of Arctic discovery. Captain Riou was his guest on 16th November 1797, four years before his death at the battle of Copenhagen. The philosopher was evidently interested also in Captain Huddart, whom he invited three times to the weekly dinner. These gleanings from the records of the Royal Society Club are but trifling incidents,

but they seemed to be worthy of being extracted and published as a slight addition to all that is known of the daily life of one of the most illustrious philosophers that England has ever had.

Of the visitors entertained by the Club during the year 1810 little need be told. One of the most important of them was Sir Alexander Johnston, who, having been taken early in life to India, acquired a knowledge of several of the various languages of the country and a strong sympathy with the natives. In 1805 he was appointed Chief Justice of Ceylon and afterwards President of the Council. He reorganised the government of the island and introduced a career of prosperity to the colony. When he returned to England his love of the East impelled him to take a main share in the creation of the Royal Asiatic Society, of which he was chosen Vice-president. He was knighted for his public services and was afterwards made a member of the Privy Council. He was elected into the Royal Society Club in 1819 and proved to be a valuable member, for his wide acquaintance with the official world at home and abroad enabled him to introduce many eminent and interesting guests.

James Smithson, who was introduced on 23rd August by Humphry Davy, studied at Oxford, and published a number of papers on chemical mineralogy. He was admitted into the fellowship of the Royal Society in 1787, one of his sponsors there being Henry Cavendish. He is chiefly remembered as the founder of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington. He will be further noticed in the account of the Club's guests in 1825.

The "Mr. Pepys" of the weekly register was probably William Hasledine Pepys, an ingenious inventor and improver of scientific apparatus. He was fond of geology and mineralogy, and one of the original founders of the Geological Society of London. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1808.

CHAPTER VIII

PRESIDENTSHIP OF SIR JOSEPH BANKS, *continued*

1811-1820

1811. SIR JOSEPH BANKS, having enjoyed robust health, had led a singularly active life from his youth up to the time at which this narrative has arrived. But as he approached his grand climacteric he became increasingly a sufferer from gout and other ailments. He gradually lost the use of his lower limbs and could only move about from place to place on wheels. Yet his mental energy and undaunted spirit triumphed over his bodily disability. He continued to take his place at the meetings of the Royal Society, to which he was wheeled in his easy chair, presiding there with his accustomed alertness and dignity. He likewise attended the weekly meetings of the Club, to which he invited his guests as freely as he had done before the failure of his locomotive powers. In some years during the first two decades of the nineteenth century he was present at from thirty to nearly forty Club dinners in the course of the year, seldom at less than twenty and only once at as few as nine. His friend Sir John Barrow, who often watched him as he presided both at the Society and at the Club, has recorded that Sir Joseph had "lost the use of his lower limbs so completely as to oblige him to be carried, or, as the case might require, wheeled by his servants in a chair: in this way he was conveyed to the more dignified chair of the Royal Society, and also to the Club—the former of which he very rarely omitted to attend, and not often

the latter ; he sat apparently so much at his ease, both at the Society and in the Club, and conducted the business of the meetings with so much spirit and dignity, that a stranger would not have supposed that he was often suffering at the time, nor even have observed an infirmity, which never disturbed his uniform cheerfulness." ¹

So too at his gatherings in Soho Square, though unable to stroll among his guests as he had been wont to do, he was wheeled to and fro through their midst, giving a kindly welcome to every one around him, and with an ear as eager as ever to listen to an account of the latest research in science, the newest tidings of botanical exploration, or the last news of geographical discovery. Sir Henry Holland, who attended these assemblies, has left an interesting picture of the impression they left on his memory, which may be appropriately quoted here :

" Sir Joseph Banks himself was necessarily a very conspicuous personage in these parties at his house. Seated and wheeled about in his arm-chair—his limbs helplessly knotted with gouty tumours, speaking no other language than English, and carrying his scientific knowledge little beyond the domain of natural history,—he nevertheless looked the governing power of the Royal Society, and was such in reality. His massive eyebrows themselves were an element of weight. I had frequent occasion to notice the strong impression his aspect and demeanour made upon foreigners,—men of science and others,—who came over to England at this period of renewed Continental intercourse. It is less paradoxical than it may seem, to say that this impression was strengthened by the very fact of his not speaking any foreign language. Silence often carries more weight with it than speech, and especially when the latter is encumbered by the effort to find words for its object. Sir Joseph Banks, silent in his Chair, was more imposing than he would have been if exchanging imperfect phrases, whether of science or of courtesy, with the strangers who came to visit him." ²

At the Annual General Meeting on July 11th, at which twenty members were present, Sir Joseph Banks, the President, in the chair, the Treasurer submitted his financial statement, which showed that the disbursements on account of tavern-bills amounted to £57 8s., and that there was a

¹ *Sketches of the Royal Society*, p. 41.

² *Recollections*, pp. 215-6.

balance due to him of £3 2s. 8d. He called attention to the price of wine having been raised sixpence a bottle, and the consequent increase in the cost of the dinners. It was agreed that the contribution of the members for the ensuing year should be two pounds.

The Treasurer reported the death of the Earl of Dartmouth, Dr. Maskelyne and Sir William Young, also that Mr. Williams desired to resign his place in the Club. There were three vacancies to be filled, and on the candidates being successively put to the ballot, Roger Wilbraham, Sir Richard Hussey Bickerton, Bart., and Richard Chenevix were declared duly elected. As the late Astronomer Royal was a member *ex officio*, his demise caused no vacancy in the membership, his place in the Club being taken by his successor in the Royal Astronomership, John Pond, who now became *ex officio* a member.

Of the members thus added to the Club, Roger Wilbraham was a man of letters with a great love of Italian literature and the possessor of a valuable library. He had been elected into the Royal Society in 1782. Admiral Sir Richard Bickerton entered the navy as far back as 1771, and after an active career at sea and on shore became admiral in 1810. Between 1805 and 1812 he had duties at the office of the Admiralty in London, and it was during that interval that he chiefly attended the meetings of the Club. He became F.R.S. on 22nd February 1810 and was made K.C.B. in 1815.

Richard Chenevix, of Huguenot descent, was born in Ireland, but resided chiefly in France, where he wrote papers in French publications and also in English journals on chemical and mineralogical subjects. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1801. As he did not attend the meetings and lived abroad, it was decided at the anniversary of 1814 that he was no longer a member of the Club.

John Pond had in his youth shown an extraordinary grasp of astronomy, even detecting errors in observations made at Greenwich Observatory. When about thirty years

of age he constructed an observatory for himself in Somerset where he made observations which proved that the Greenwich instruments had become defective. He was aged forty when he first appeared in the Club. Four years later, on Maskelyne's strong recommendation, he was appointed to succeed him as Astronomer Royal in 1811. The Royal Society had recognised Pond's scientific claims by electing him a Fellow in 1807. He was indefatigable in inventing improvements for increasing the delicacy and accuracy of astronomical instruments, and he raised Greenwich Observatory to a standard of excellence such as it had never before attained. He had a modest and unobtrusive character, which led him after some years to slacken in his attendance at the dinners and finally to cease to appear.

A few of the guests this year may be briefly noticed. "Sir Sidney Smith," who dined thrice, was no doubt the courageous admiral who successfully defended St. Jean d'Acre against the French in 1799. "Professor Hope," invited by Humphry Davy, may be identified with the eminent chemist who for more than forty years was the Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh. Sir Francis Milman was a conspicuous physician of the day, President of the Royal College of Physicians, who had been made a baronet by George III. some years before. On 7th November John Barrow invited "Mr. Croker," who may be confidently regarded as John Wilson Croker of *Quarterly Review* renown, who had recently been rewarded for his political services by being made Secretary to the Admiralty. Barrow's position in the Admiralty and his connection with the *Quarterly* would prompt him to introduce the brilliant editor to the Royal Philosophers. The fourth Earl of Aberdeen, who dined with the Club on November 14th, was then a young man of seven-and-twenty, on the threshold of that distinguished career in which he rose through a succession of important offices at home and abroad to become Prime Minister. At this time he sat in the House of Lords as a Scottish representative peer, but had hardly entered the political arena. He was known to have classical

tastes, to have travelled through Greece and to have founded the Athenian Society—a reputation which brought him the distinction of being put at the head of the band of Scotsmen whom Byron pilloried in the *English Bards and Scotch Reviewers*.

First in the oat-fed phalanx shall be seen
The travell'd thane, Athenian Aberdeen.

He was elected into the Royal Society on 28th April 1808, and became a member of the Club in 1820.

Many former guests of the Club reappeared this year. Dr. Thomas Young dined in January and again in November. The veteran seaman Bligh, now become an Admiral, was welcomed three times to the table. Professor Playfair and Lord Webb Seymour were also guests.

1812. The Annual General Meeting of 1812, held on 25th June, was attended by twenty-one members, Sir Joseph Banks taking the chair. The Treasurer stated that his disbursements had been £69 14s. 6d., and that he had a balance on hand of £17 10s. 10d., sufficient in his opinion to justify him in proposing that the contribution from each member should this year be one pound. It was resolved that as Sir James Hall and Penruddock Wyndham, on account of their distant avocations, were not likely to attend the Club in future (each of them having been absent for two years), their names should be withdrawn from the List. Two vacancies were thus created. Thereupon the list of candidates was read and each name was successively put to the ballot, when, as a result of the voting, Sir George Thomas Staunton, Bart., was declared to be duly elected.

Sir George Staunton has been already referred to as an occasional guest. He was the son of George Leonard Staunton who for many years was so active a member of the Club. He was taken by his father in the Embassy to China in 1792, and thenceforth became a successful student of Chinese. Settling at Canton he remained there for nineteen years, in which time he was employed as interpreter and became chief of factory. Returning to England he



CHARLES HATCHETT, F.R.S., 1797.

eventually entered Parliament and represented several constituencies in succession from 1818 to 1832. He was the first to translate into English and publish a Chinese work. Elected into the Royal Society in 1803 he was also one of the original founders of the Royal Asiatic Society.

A few visitors who appeared for the first time at the dinners this year may be noticed here. The "Dr. Holland" introduced by Humphry Davy on 16th January was doubtless the future Sir Henry Holland who had graduated M.D. the year before at Edinburgh. While he rose to an extensive and lucrative practice and became probably the leading physician of the day in London, he would never allow his professional duties to usurp the two months which he from the first resolved to devote each year to travel abroad. It was natural that when he had acquired an adequate fortune he should retire from medical practice, and give free rein to his passion for visiting foreign countries. Early in the year 1815 he was elected into the Royal Society. He was made a baronet in 1853. From 1865 to 1873 (in which latter year he died on his birthday at the age of 85), he was President of the Royal Institution. In 1872 he published the volume of "Recollections" from which quotations have been given in the foregoing pages. He was born at Knutsford in Cheshire, and his eldest son, when raised to the peerage, took the title of Viscount Knutsford. Dr. Charles Henry Parry was another successful physician who, after studying at Göttingen and Edinburgh, took his degree at the latter University and ultimately settled in London.

John Cam Hobhouse, son of one of the members of the Club, Benjamin Hobhouse (who this year had a baronetcy conferred on him for his political services), bore a name now familiar to every reader of Byron, for he lived and travelled in the closest intimacy with the poet, who in dedicating to him the last magnificent Canto of *Childe Harold*, described him as "one whom I have known long, and accompanied far, whom I have found wakeful over my sickness and kind in my sorrow, glad in my prosperity and

firm in my adversity, true in counsel and trusty in peril, a friend often tried and never found wanting." After a varied parliamentary and official career Hobhouse was raised to the Peerage with the title of Baron Broughton de Gyfford, but it will be by his commoner's name that he will be best remembered.

Sir Abraham Hume, Bart., has been already mentioned (p. 158). He was elected into the Royal Society as far back as 1775, and when he died in 1838 at the age of 89, he was the oldest Fellow on the Society's list. Sir John Sinclair, Bart., was several times invited by Sir Joseph Banks this year.

Lord Redesdale (John Freeman Mitford), another of the President's guests, after a successful career as a barrister and member of Parliament, rose in 1801 to be Speaker of the House of Commons. Next year he was appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland and raised to the peerage with the title of Baron Redesdale. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1794.

1813. The Anniversary Meeting, held on 15th July 1813, was attended by twenty members. In the absence of the President the chair was taken by the Treasurer, who informed the meeting that the disbursements since last Anniversary amounted to £88 11s. 6d. and that there was an adverse balance of £30 18s. 8d. It was resolved that the contribution should be one pound from each member.

The death of Dr. Samuel F. Simmons and John Towneley was reported. Including the vacancy left unfilled at the last annual General Meeting there were now three vacancies. The list of candidates having been read and each name having been put separately to the ballot, William Thomas Brande, Sir Robert Harry Inglis, Bart., and Samuel Davies were declared to be elected.

The names of four members were given out by the Treasurer as not having attended since the last Anniversary, and one of them not for the last two years, none having assigned any reason for his absence. But the Club had become much more lenient in this matter. No action was taken with

regard to these defaulters, and the Treasurer, having made the announcement, passed on to propose that as some alteration seemed to be necessary in regard to the mode of paying the Tavern expenses, which were steadily mounting up, a Committee should be formed and asked to meet at the "Crown and Anchor" on the following Thursday a little before the hour of dinner to consider the matter. The minute of this Committee, as entered in the principal Minute-book of the Club, for the Anniversary of 1814, runs as follows: "That the members shall in future pay 8/ instead of 6/ at each meeting, and that the landlord do charge 6/6 instead of 5/ per head for eating." The financial condition of the Club at this time cannot be clearly understood from the meagre record contained in the weekly registers. The contribution of one pound levied at the Anniversary was paid at the time by most of the members present, and obtained from the other members as they appeared at the dinners during the last half of the year. But on 30th December the following minute appears in the register: "resolved that each member do pay £3 for defraying the expenses of the present year." The raising of the Tavern prices appears to have been coincident with an increased demand on the Fund. The poor attendance in the months of autumn this year would cause a heavy expense in making up for deficiencies.

William T. Brande, who had often been a guest of the Club and now became a member, was a laborious chemist and lecturer. By his lectures at the Royal Institution and elsewhere, and by his writings he did good service in promoting the spread of knowledge concerning the aims and achievements of science. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1809.

Sir Robert Inglis for many years represented Oxford University in Parliament. He was an upright Tory country-gentleman with pleasing manners, who from his high character rather than from his talent acquired no little influence in his day. He joined many societies, including the Royal, into which he was admitted on March 4th of this year, and the Club lost no time in showing its appreciation of his

genial company by electing him into their body at the first opportunity. Samuel Davies became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1792.

There were no guests of special prominence among those entertained for the first time this year. The "Mr. Skene" invited by Lord Kirkwall on 29th April may be conjectured to have been Sir Walter Scott's friend James Skene, an advocate at the Scottish bar, father of the Celtic scholar and historian W. F. Skene.

"Mr. Dollond" appears as the guest of John Pond on 18th February. There were then living two active members of this noted race of opticians. The first and most eminent of the family, John Dollond, was elected into the Royal Society, which awarded the Copley Medal to him in 1758 for his invention of achromatic telescopes. He died in 1761. His son Peter maintained the scientific renown of the firm till he died in 1820 at the age of ninety, greatly regretted by a wide circle of friends who enjoyed his society, and by a numerous group of poor persons whom his generosity relieved. George Dollond, his nephew (1774-1852), who fully kept up the reputation of the family, was much esteemed among scientific men and was elected into the Royal Society towards the end of 1819, and into the Club in 1833.

On the 16th December Barrow invited "Mr. Brunel" as his guest. There can be little doubt that this was the future Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, the well-known engineer who came to England in 1799, and among other undertakings constructed the Thames Tunnel.

1814. The Anniversary on 14th July 1814 was attended by twenty-two members, the President occupying the chair. The Treasurer reported that on the Tavern bills since the last General Meeting he had disbursed £107 12s. and that he had a balance in hand of £11 15s. 4d. It was agreed that the contribution from each member for the ensuing year should be £2. There was a single vacancy which was by ballot filled up, and the Duke of Somerset, on the proposal of the President, was declared to be elected a member.

It will be remembered that the Duke was elected into the Club in 1805, but was "discontinued" in the following year, not having duly complied with the rules. Edward Adolphus Seymour, eleventh Duke of Somerset, was noted for his interest in both scientific and literary pursuits, and wrote some mathematical papers. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1797, and in later years was chosen President of the Linnean Society, of the Royal Institution and of the Royal Literary Fund. He was also a useful member of other Societies.

An additional *ex-officio* member was added to the Club this year in the person of Taylor Combe, who on 30th November 1812 had been elected one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society. He was introduced to the Club and took his place at the dinner on 24th February 1814. He was Keeper of Coins and Antiquities at the British Museum, and became F.R.S. in 1807.

The paucity of notable guests which has been marked in the last few years is still maintained in the records of this year. Dr. John Bostock, who was invited by Charles Hatchett, was a physician who had graduated at Edinburgh and ultimately settled in London, where he became Lecturer on Chemistry at Guy's Hospital. He was one of the early members of the Geological Society and its first elected President after the reception of its Charter of incorporation in 1826. He became F.R.S. in 1818.

The "Mr. Allan," guest of Wollaston on May 19th, was probably Thomas Allan, possessor of the finest collection of minerals in Scotland, which his trained mineralogical ability and his financial resources enabled him continually to augment. He was elected into the Royal Society next year. Another visitor was Lord Amilius Beauclerk, third son of the fifth Duke of St. Albans, who joined the Navy in 1782 and after varied service in European and Atlantic waters was appointed Admiral and Commander-in-chief at Plymouth. He had been elected into the Royal Society in 1809.

Among the visitors of former years who now reappeared the

names may be mentioned of Dr. Thomas Young, Mr. Brunel, Dr. Brinkley, Admiral Bligh, Mr. Brodie, and Mr. Watt.

1815. The Annual General Meeting of 1815 was held on June 22nd and was attended by the following company :

Right Hon Sir Joseph Banks Bart. K.B. President	
Sir Everard Home Bart.	John Pond
John Symmons	Sir John T. Stanley Bart.
Roger Wilbraham	Sir Gilbert Blane, Bart.
Samuel Lysons	Charles Wilkins
Robert H. Inglis	George Best
John Walker	Dr. Charles Burney
Samuel Davies	Charles Hatchett
Dr. W. H. Wollaston	Sir Benjamin Hobhouse Bart.
Matthew Raper, Treasurer	

The Treasurer announced that he had disbursed £90 8s. in payment of Tavern bills and that he had in hand a balance of £32 12s. 4d. It was agreed that the contribution for the year should again be two pounds. The number of persons who dined at the Club this year was 540 of whom 458 were members and 82 visitors.

It appeared from the registers that three members had been absent during the whole of the past year. The meeting, however, no longer stringent in the enforcement of the regulation about attendance, found an excuse for one of the defaulters that he had been "much indisposed"; for another, that he had been engaged in China. For the third, however, they could find no palliation, and his name was accordingly balloted out of the list of membership. On the motion of the Treasurer, seconded by the President, Mr. William Smith was balloted for and was declared to be duly elected a member. The death of Mr. Lloyd was announced by Charles Hatchett, but no person being proposed as a candidate, the vacancy was left over to be filled at another time.

There is no clue in the records as to the identity of the new member. Two persons of the name of William Smith were at that time Fellows of the Royal Society, one elected on 25th April 1805 and the other on February 13th 1806.

The attendance at the Club in the autumn months had now become remarkably small. The records do not show for what number of persons commons were provided during that season, but it is fairly evident that for weeks together the actual attendance must have fallen short of that number, thus entailing a considerable demand on the Fund. This year from the end of August till the 26th October, the largest number present at any dinner was five, and this number was reached only once. On most occasions there were only two or three, once only one, and once none at all. Yet, when we think of the strain of the long wars on the Continent and at sea, the heavy taxation, the rise in the cost of food which reduced the poorer part of the population almost to starvation, the destructive outbreaks of the Luddites and the dangerous food riots in many parts of the country, we may be surprised that the Club should have kept up its meetings as it actually did. At last, however, the year of the final fall of Napoleon had now arrived, and with the coming of peace an era of calm national development might be looked for.

As a welcome variation in the prolonged absence of foreigners from the meetings of the Club two strangers from over-sea made their appearance this year. On November 9th Sir Humphry Davy brought Canova to the "Crown and Anchor." The great Italian sculptor had been sent from Rome to France to endeavour to reclaim for Italy some of the priceless works of art which had been transferred from that country to Paris. He took occasion of the opportunity to pay a visit to England.

M. Jaume-Saint-Hilaire who dined with the Club on March 9th was a French botanist who devoted himself to improving the agriculture of his native country, and was the author of a large number of papers, tracts and volumes on botanical and agricultural subjects.

On May 4th Sir Joseph Banks introduced to the Club "Sir James Smith." There can be little doubt that this was Sir James Edward Smith who had studied medicine at Edinburgh, but with the encouragement of Banks gave

himself up to the pursuit of botanical studies. Having some wealth he purchased the whole of the library and natural history collections left by Linnaeus, and suggested the foundation of the Linnean Society. When that Society was inaugurated he was chosen as its first President, and he continued to be re-elected annually until his death in 1828. His collections and library, including those of Linnaeus, were then purchased by private subscription for the Linnean Society, in whose keeping they now remain.

Another fresh guest was James Millingen the antiquary, who, born in London of Dutch parentage and educated at Westminster School, was taken to France by his father about the time of the French Revolution. He was employed for a while in the Paris mint, and there acquired a taste for studying coins and medals. But by a decree of the Convention he with other British residents was arrested and kept in prison until the end of the war. On being set at liberty he joined one or two of his fellow countrymen in setting up in Paris a bank which in a few years had to be wound up. He then betook himself to turn his knowledge of numismatics to practical use, and eventually acquired an European reputation as an expert dealer in coins and medals. His weak health obliged him to live mostly in Italy, but he reappeared from time to time in Paris and London. He compiled a number of useful works dealing with his favourite subject. The value of these publications was acknowledged by his being elected not only into our own Society of Antiquaries but into many similar institutions abroad. He was granted a civil list pension. He died at Florence in 1845.

Sir George Warrender, Bart., a landed proprietor in East Lothian, dined twice with the Club in the course of the year, and between the two dinners he was on 8th June elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Lord Charleville, Dr. Thomas Young, Mr. Croker, Admiral Bligh, Mr. Brodie and Mr. Watt were among the former visitors who came again this year to dine.

1816. The Annual General Meeting for 1816 took place on 11th July and was attended by twenty-three members, the Earl of Morton in the chair. The Treasurer announced that the expenses for the year had amounted to £108 7s. and that there remained in his hands a balance of £2 7s. 4d. The meeting resolved that the contribution from each member for the ensuing year should be three pounds. There were two vacancies, to fill which a ballot was taken and Henry Browne (F.R.S. 1797) and Daniel Moore (F.R.S. 1810) were declared duly elected.

The attendance since the last Anniversary showed remarkable fluctuations, and the falling-off in autumn was more pronounced than ever. Thus on 4th April there were 22 persons, comprising 14 members and 8 visitors ; on the following Thursday there were only two—Sir Everard Home and his guest. In the autumn of 1816 from 18th July to 17th October on most days only two came to dine, twice only one, and once none.

This year again a few foreign visitors came to the Club. On January 11th the President had as one of his guests "Mons. du Buisson." If we may identify the name with that of François R. A. Dubuisson of Nantes, he was one of the fortunate French naturalists who escaped execution when arrested by the minions of the Revolution. Brought before the tribunal, he was dismissed when the public prosecutor could only say of him that he was "a poor man without influence of any kind, busy only with science, and whose labours might one day be useful to the country." He was an enthusiastic naturalist, especially skilled in geology, and became Director of the Natural History Museum of Nantes, which he greatly enlarged, bestowing on it whatever he could discover in the region. He published some works on the geology and mineralogy of his native region, and was the friend of many of the foremost naturalists and mineralogists of France. Another foreign name is written "Mr. Vallée" and a third appears as "Mr. Boetiflower."

The most notable of the homeland guests this year was undoubtedly Lord Erskine, whom the President invited to

dine with the Club on 27th June. This remarkable man was the youngest son of the tenth Earl of Buchan. He began his varied career at the age of fourteen by entering the Navy, much against his own inclinations, and he served as a midshipman for four years (1764-1768) in the West Indies. He escaped from this mode of life by using up all his patrimony in purchasing a commission in the army in 1768, and when stationed for a time in Minorca devoted his time to an earnest course of reading in English literature. After he returned to England in 1772, he happened to attend an assise court, and appears to have been impressed with the conviction that he was himself more fit to be a barrister than a soldier. On the advice of Lord Mansfield he then resolved to take up the law as his profession. In the spring of 1775 he was admitted to Lincoln's Inn. Next year he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, as a gentleman commoner and took an honorary M.A. in 1778. In the same year he was called to the bar and at once attained unprecedented success by his defence of a client against a charge of libel brought by the first Lord of the Admiralty. It is related that on the close of this case he was surrounded by attornies, to the number, he used to say, of sixty-five, all with their retainers to secure his future aid. He increased his reputation by subsequent splendid displays of forensic talent. He entered Parliament in 1783, and took an active part as a debater in the House of Commons. In 1806 he was appointed Lord Chancellor and raised to the peerage with the title of Baron Erskine of Restormel. But he soon thereafter retired from public life. His wife had long predeceased him, and he gave the last touch of romance to his career when he was about seventy, by marrying again at Gretna Green, the second wife being a Miss Mary Buck.¹ He died in 1823.

¹ Sir Henry Holland, who knew him in his later years, records that "his mind was then clouded with little foibles and superstitions. I well recollect a dinner at Sir S. Romilly's, where his agitation was curiously shown in his reluctance to sit down as one of thirteen at table, and by the relief he expressed when the fourteenth guest came in. His life had been one of *meteoric* kind throughout, vanishing in mist, as such lives are prone to do." *Recollections*, p. 244.

Another of the President's guests was Sir Thomas Makdougall Brisbane, a distinguished soldier, who after serving in the West Indies, in the Peninsula, under Wellington, and in Canada, was in 1821 appointed Governor of New South Wales—an office which he held with advantage to the Colony for four years. The memorial of his Australian residence is perpetuated in the name of the Brisbane River, which was discovered under his auspices, and in that of the town of Brisbane, the capital of Queensland, where he planted a penal station. Being a keen astronomer he took advantage of the clear Australian skies to erect an observatory where he catalogued no less than 7385 stars. On his return to Scotland he built an observatory at Makerston in Roxburghshire, and eventually equipped it for magnetic and meteorological as well as astronomical work. The valuable detailed magnetic observations there made have been published. Sir Thomas took a keen interest in the welfare of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, of which, in succession to Sir Walter Scott, he was President from 1833 to his death in 1860. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1810.

At the end of the year Sir Humphry Davy introduced Charles D. E. König, a native of Brunswick, who in 1800 had been invited to this country in order to arrange Queen Charlotte's mineral collection. Thereafter he was employed for some years under Dryander, Sir Joseph Banks' librarian, until, probably with Sir Joseph's active support, he was appointed assistant-keeper of the natural-history collections of the British Museum, and eventually had charge of the mineralogical portion. He was elected into the Royal Society in January 1810.

1817. At the Annual General Meeting on July 3rd 1817 there were present twenty-three members, and the President took the chair. As reported by the Treasurer the receipts for the past year amounted to £145 11s. 4d. and the expenses to £140 11s., leaving in his hands a balance of £5 os. 4d. Thus the tavern bills amounted to more than five times what they had been twelve years before. As the balance

was so small the meeting resolved that a contribution of three pounds should again be called for from each member. As there were no vacancies no election took place, but the names of two candidates were recorded against the next voting.

The meeting took into consideration the serious number of deficiencies in the attendance during the autumn months and resolved "that the meetings of the Club be suspended during the ensuing months, August, September and October, and resumed the first Thursday in November."

The flow of visitors from the Continent, which had for so many years been checked by the continued state of war, now gradually began once more to move. This year on November 6th the President was able to present to the Club a remarkable trio—Arago, Biot and Humboldt.

At the time of this visit to England François Jean Dominique Arago was thirty-one years of age and together with Biot, who was twelve years his senior, had come here for the purpose of making geodetic observations on our coasts. These two eminent physicists were associated in the laborious task of continuing the measurement of an arc of the meridian from Barcelona to the Balearic Isles. They had their station for some months in winter on one of the higher summits of the Eastern Pyrenees, where the younger man was indefatigable day and night in repairing the damage done by the furious gales to which they were exposed. When the principal operations had been completed he crossed to Majorca, where he was taken for a spy, and after going through an almost incredible series of misfortunes, lasting altogether about two years, he succeeded in returning to France in the summer of 1809. He was received with acclaim in Paris, where the Academy of Sciences departed from its regulations in order to enrol him among its members, though he was still only three-and-twenty, while the Emperor Napoleon named him professor at the École Polytechnique, where he taught in the most brilliant way. His original researches lay chiefly in optics, magnetism and astronomy. But his greatest contribution to the diffusion

of science was probably the remarkable attractiveness of his lectures and the éloges which he pronounced as Perpetual Secretary of the Academy of Sciences. He was not only a conspicuous man of science, but also took a prominent part in the public affairs of France during the successive parliamentary changes through which the country passed from the fall of the first empire to the coup d'état of 1852, which he did not long survive.

Jean Baptiste Biot, distinguished among the French physicists, had come to England chiefly to make observations along the British arc of the meridian, in pursuance of which design he penetrated into the Orkney Islands. His researches on the polarisation of light were of great value, which the Royal Society acknowledged by awarding to him in 1840 the Rumford Medal. He died in 1862 at the great age of eighty-eight. Biot, Alexander von Humboldt, and Gay-Lussac, had been made Foreign Members of the Royal Society on April 6th 1815.

Baron Alexander von Humboldt enjoyed during his lifetime the reputation of being the greatest naturalist of his age. He had early conceived broad views of nature as a whole and he had the art of placing these views before the world in a connected, if not always attractive form. He was an experienced traveller, visiting vast regions of the world of which little was then known, and accumulating large stores of information regarding their physical features, products and natural history. His great work on Central America, which took him twenty years to prepare, is a colossal monument of his genius.

Besides the renewed advent of foreign visitors, the native guests invited by the Club this year seem to present a greater variety of interest than had appeared for some time past. The most conspicuous of their number was Sir Stamford Raffles, who dined eight times in the first half of the year. This famous governor spent nearly twenty years in the East, during which time he explored many of the islands, learning their languages and natural history and making extensive collections. To his sagacity and

foresight the British Empire owes the possession of that important centre—the island of Singapore. His visit to England at this time may have been in connection with his work on the “History of Java,” which was published this year. The Royal Society availed itself of the occasion of his being in this country to elect him a Fellow on 26th March. When in 1824 he finally quitted the East, the vessel in which he was returning home took fire, and all his papers, maps and immense collections were destroyed. He did not long survive this irreparable loss. Living in retirement he yet interested himself in the foundation of the Zoological Society, of which he was chosen the first president. He died in 1826 at the age of only forty-five. His patriotic services were commemorated by the placing of a statue of him in Westminster Abbey.

Charles Babbage, at this time only twenty-five years of age, dined twice with the Club in the course of the spring. He took his M.A. degree at Cambridge this year, but his mathematical genius had already manifested itself, and he had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society on March 14, 1816. He was for eleven years Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge, but did not lecture. He will be remembered as a laborious mechanician who spent thirty-seven years and most of his fortune in trying to perfect and complete his calculating machine.

Francis Chantrey, the eminent sculptor, dined with the Club this summer, appeared frequently afterwards, and was eventually elected a member. He was evidently a favourite not only at the Club but with the Fellows of the Society at large, for he was elected into their number in the spring of 1818.

William Scoresby and his son, both of Arctic renown, were the guests of the President on 18th December. The father went to sea when he was twenty, was taken prisoner by the Spaniards, but eventually engaged in the Greenland whale-fishery, and by his success and the knowledge he acquired of the northern regions, led the way in Arctic exploration. The son, who had the same name, inherited a

predilection for the sea, and as an apprentice used to accompany his father in his annual voyage. But he had the advantage of an education which included attendance at the lectures on Chemistry and Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, where Professor John Playfair showed him kindness. He prosecuted the whale-fishery year after year in larger vessels, and with an increasing desire to investigate the natural history of the Arctic regions and the physical problems presented by them. He had made the acquaintance of Sir Joseph Banks, on whom he urged the importance of sending an expedition for the express purpose of the scientific exploration of these northern lands and seas, and in 1818 he had the satisfaction of seeing his desire carried out when Captain Ross and Lieutenant Parry sailed in the *Isabella* and *Alexander*. Still continuing his annual whaling voyages, he published in 1820 his interesting work giving an "Account of the Arctic Regions and northern Whale-fishery," which may be regarded as the basis whence the truly scientific investigation of these regions took its start. From 1823 his plan of life was completely changed. He resolved to qualify himself for the Church by a residence in Cambridge, and spent his remaining years in clerical labours, while also writing scientific papers and several books. He died in 1857 at the age of sixty-eight. He was elected into the Royal Society on 17th June 1824, and his name is entered on the List as the Rev. William Scoresby.

Lord Melville, invited by the President, was known when a commoner as Henry Dundas, and had led a stirring political life in and out of parliament. He was three years Home-Secretary, seven years Secretary of War, and for a brief period First Lord of the Admiralty. He was raised to the peerage in 1802 as the first Viscount Melville of Melville and Baron Dunira.

Major-General Sir Henry Torrens, introduced by the President on 26th June, had seen service in his youth with the army in Holland, of which he had some pleasant as well as stirring recollections. He used to tell how on one

occasion he and some brother officers, thinking the town of Alkmaar quite safe from the enemy, entered it and ordered dinner at an inn. While the meal was in preparation he began to make notes in his journal, but an alarm being given that the French were close upon them he started off, leaving his papers and pocket-book on the table, and was just in time to take his place with his regiment. In the action which followed he was dreadfully wounded. A considerable time afterwards being back in Alkmaar he called at the inn, and there had his papers and purse returned to him which, with scrupulous care and honesty, had been preserved.

Basil Hall, son of Sir James Hall of Dunglass, was a captain in the navy and the author of many volumes of travels and voyages which were popular in their day. He became F.R.S. in 1816.

At the last dinner of the year Captain Sabine was one of the guests. He was destined to occupy an important place in the history both of the Club and of the Royal Society, of which he was for ten years the distinguished president.

1818. On June 18th the Anniversary Meeting for 1818 was attended by twenty-three members, with Sir Joseph Banks in the chair. The Treasurer reported that the expenses since the last General Meeting had amounted to £109 13s. 6d. and the receipts, including the balance from the previous year, to £119 4s., leaving a balance in hand of £9 6s. 10d., to which would doubtless be added the unpaid contributions of six members amounting to £23. In order to provide a fund for the following year it was resolved to levy a contribution of £4 from each member, the largest subscription ever called for in the history of the Club up to this time.

There was one vacancy caused by the death of Dr. Burney, and another was made by Mr. Brande consenting to become an *ex-officio* member, he having been elected one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society on 30th November 1816. The two vacancies thus arising were filled by the election of Dr. William George Maton and Thomas Lister Parker.



WILLIAM MARSDEN.

Treas. R.S., 1802-1810; Treasurer of the Club from 1788 to 1804.

It was "resolved that for the future, in the absence of the President, the senior Vice-president of the Royal Society shall take the chair ; and in case no one of them should be present that the Treasurer do as usual preside."

But the most important decision arrived at by this meeting had reference to the question of the attendance at the Club in autumn. It was decided to reverse the decision of the previous year, and a resolution was carried "that in future the meetings of the Club be continued through the year without intermission in the same manner as before the last Anniversary." At the same time the dinner-hour was once more made a little later—"resolved that in future the dinner-hour be half-past five o'clock instead of five."

Sir Joseph Banks was as usual re-elected President, but Mr. Raper, the Treasurer, resigned his office, which he had held for fourteen years. Mr. Daniel Moore was chosen to replace him—an unfortunate choice, as will appear in later pages.

Some comments are required on the minutes of the Anniversary. First, in regard to the new members it may be remarked that Dr. Maton was M.A. and M.D. of Oxford, became a physician of good standing in London, and was elected into the Royal Society in 1800. T. L. Parker of Christ's College, Cambridge, was an antiquary who became F.R.S. in 1815.

The prompt rescinding of the resolution of the previous anniversary to hold no meetings during the autumn months hardly appears in itself to be consistent with the financial experience of the Club during the last few years, and could only be justified by some strong steps being taken to prevent the serious diminution of attendance from the end of July to the middle or end of October. That some such steps were now adopted appears evident from the record of the autumn meetings of this year. There were probably always a few "stalwarts" who did not regularly migrate from London in the autumn, and who in that dull season liked to have it in their power to meet each other now and then at the "Crown and Anchor"; and we can well believe that these non-migratory residents would organise a strong

canvass of the members for the purpose of having the obnoxious resolution repealed. Unfortunately the minutes of the proceedings at the meetings are tantalisingly brief. They do not reveal whether there was any opposition to the resolution of 1817 intermitting the autumn dinners, or to the resolution of 1818 restoring them. A perusal of the dinner-lists affords grounds for a surmise as to who the most active members were likely to have been in the movement for the renewal of the dinners. But without attempting to discover how the Club should have been led to reverse the policy which it had adopted twelve months before, we must admit that those members who favoured the return to the old practice of continuing the meetings throughout the year took good care to ensure that their action should be justified by the attendance during the August, September and October of this year. They must have beaten up every member who could be in London during these months, with the result that whereas the total average attendance from the end of July to the beginning of November during the five years that preceded the Anniversary of 1817 was 56, in 1818-19 it rose at one bound to 101. Considerable effort must have been required on the part of those who worked for the restitution of the dinners to gather so large a company. Some faces appeared that had never been seen in the autumn before. The venerable and invalid President did his duty most manfully in carrying out what appeared to be the desire of the majority of the Club, for out of the thirteen meetings in the three autumn months, in spite of his infirmities he presided at eleven. Writing on 24th August to his friend and medical adviser, Sir Everard Home, he reported "The Club prospers. Till last Thursday we had not mustered less than nine. On the last club-day we were seven: agreed to reduce the number from twelve to seven. . . . Murdoch never misses, Barrow is a good attendant. Of my attendance you are quite sure, as I have no other dinner on Thursday when in London."¹

¹ Edward Smith's "*Life of Sir Joseph Banks*," p. 281. This quotation reveals, what the dinner register no longer recorded, that the minimum

The effect of the "whip" for attendance continued to be felt for the next few years, but with gradually decreasing force. The numbers present during the autumn months slowly fell back, until in the course of seven years they became smaller than they had been before.

Some eminent foreign men of science dined with the Club this year. On June 4th the President introduced the Baron George Cuvier—the most illustrious comparative anatomist of his day, and the most eloquent and appreciative critic of the work of men of science. In 1806 his honoured name had been placed in the list of Foreign Members of the Royal Society, and advantage was taken of his visit to London at this time to obtain his signature in the Society's Charter-book, where it stands boldly inscribed on the page which contains the signatures of the Fellows elected in 1818.

Another notable guest brought by Sir Joseph Banks on August 6th was Berzelius of Sweden, one of the founders of modern inorganic chemistry, who achieved a series of discoveries in the detection and isolation of elementary bodies such as would have made the reputation of half a dozen chemists of the first rank. Every mineralogist, too, who has learnt to work with the blowpipe looks up to him with reverence and gratitude. The Royal Society chose him as one of its Foreign members in 1813 and awarded him the Copley Medal in 1836.

Arctic exploration, which was at this time engaging much public attention and not a little activity at the board of Admiralty, was well represented at the dinners of the Royal Society Club, by three of the naval heroes who were about to begin the career of investigation which has made them famous. The vessels *Isabella* and *Alexander* were being fitted out to sail under the command of Captain John

number for whom commons were to be provided was twelve, and that on August 20th 1819 it was reduced by the Club to seven. The quotation also suggests that Sir Everard Home was prominent among those who wished to have the autumn dinners retained, and that the President, his patient, contributed his help.

Ross and Lieut. Edward Parry for the main purpose of exploring Baffin's Bay, and discovering if possible a north-west passage into the Arctic Ocean and Behring Strait. These two pioneers were guests of the Club in the spring of this year. Ross was introduced first by Barrow, who at the Admiralty was engaged in furthering the naval preparations for the departure of the Expedition. The President brought him twice to the "Crown and Anchor" during the winter. The Expedition sailed in April and returned in November. Parry was again Barrow's guest in December, and we may be sure that there was much talk at the Club that evening over the details of the voyage.

The greatest of all the Arctic explorers, John Franklin, likewise dined this year with the Club. He and Captain Ross were both guests on the evening of November 19th. Franklin, then thirty-two years of age, had already seen some rough service in the Navy. He was present at the battle of Copenhagen, and thereafter was engaged for some years, under the skilled navigator Flinders, in exploring and charting Australian coasts. After suffering shipwreck there he returned to England, acted as signal-midshipman on board the *Bellerophon* at the battle of Trafalgar and afterwards, promoted Lieutenant, played a courageous part in the attack on New Orleans. He had this year commanded the *Trent* under Captain Buchan in the *Dorothea*, in the search for a north-west passage by way of Spitzbergen or to reach the North Pole. Owing to the *Dorothea* being seriously damaged by ice she had to be brought back closely attended by her companion vessel. But though this expedition was not successful, it prepared the way for the brilliant part which Franklin was yet destined to play in Arctic investigation.

Captain Kater, who dined twice with the Club during the winter, on the invitation of Dr. Wollaston, had seen service with the army in India, where he had taken part in the triangulation for a survey of the country. He had to return to England on account of ill-health, and was ultimately in 1814 placed on half pay. He then devoted himself with

ardour and success to scientific pursuits. Being a skilled mechanician, he made great improvements in various scientific instruments. Especially important was his work in connection with the construction of a pendulum vibrating seconds, in which he obtained an instrument of extraordinary delicacy, a matter of practical importance in the establishment of standard weights and measures for the country. This laborious research, which extended over several years, gained for him the Copley Medal of the Royal Society in 1817. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1814, gave the Bakerian Lecture in 1820 and for three years from 1827 to 1830 was Treasurer. He was elected into the Club in 1821.

Sir Gore Ouseley, Bart., was an eminent diplomatist. While rendering valuable service to British power in the East he made himself an accomplished scholar in oriental languages. He returned to England in 1815, and was elected into the Royal Society in 1817.

Sir Christopher Pegge, an Oxford graduate in medicine, in 1801 became Regius Professor of Physic at his own university and held the appointment till his death in 1822. He became F.R.S. in 1795, and was knighted four years later.

William Buckland, invited by Sir Everard Home on 2nd April, was one of the early fathers of geology in England. By the eloquence of his writings, the attraction of his lectures and excursions, and the charm of his character he did much to spread a recognition of the interest and value of geological studies. He became Professor of Mineralogy at Oxford in 1813 and Reader in Geology in 1819. He had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society only a few weeks before he dined with the Club. In 1822 he was awarded the Copley Medal. His inaugural discourse, vindicating the subject and the aims of geology, attracted much attention, and he became thereafter a frequent guest at the Club.

William Martin Leake, who dined with the Philosophers on April 9th, was widely known and esteemed for his researches as an antiquary and historian of Asia Minor and

Greece. He began as an officer of artillery, in which capacity he assisted in training a part of the Turkish army, and he then took the opportunity of travelling far and wide in the East. His wonderful eye for topography, combined with his interest in classical geography, enabled him to identify ancient sites, and to throw so much light on the Greek and Roman classics that his works form one of the most valuable sources of information on the subject.

1819. The Annual General Meeting of 1819 was held on 8th July and was attended by twenty-three members, with Sir Joseph Banks in the chair—the last Anniversary at which he appeared. The Treasurer announced that the expenses since the last General Meeting amounted to £111 8s. and that there was a balance in his hands of £72 2s. 10d. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at £2 from each member. The increasing unwillingness of the Club to put in force the regulation as to absentees was again markedly evident on this occasion. There were five members who had not appeared at the Club for more than twelve months, one of them for more than five years. On behalf of the greatest defaulter the meeting was glad to accept the statement that “serious indisposition” accounted for his absence, and no action was taken in regard to the others. Two members had died in the course of the year—Samuel Davies and Samuel Lysons. To fill the two vacancies thus caused Henry Thomas Colebrooke and Sir Alexander Johnston were balloted for and elected.

One of the resolutions passed at the previous Anniversary was modified, so as to run as follows: “For the future, in the absence of the President, the senior Vice-president of the Royal Society, being a member of the Club, shall take the chair, and in case no one of them shall be present, that the Treasurer do, as usual, preside.”

It is the duty of the writer of this volume to animadvert on the singularly negligent manner in which Mr. Daniel Moore kept the records of the Club during his tenure of the office of Treasurer. But for the pious care of one of his successors, Joseph Smith, these records for more than

nine years, from 1818 to 1828, might have been entirely lost. It is due to the memory of this benefactor, who was elected Treasurer at the Anniversary of 1830, to quote here his account of what he did :

“ At the Anniversary Meeting on the 18 June 1818, Mr. Raper resigned the Treasurership and Mr. Daniel Moore was elected in his room, who continued in the office until his death which took place on the 6 January 1828. During Mr. Moore’s time no entries were made of the weekly meetings of the Club in a book, but were merely written on slips of paper at the table after dinner.

“ On the election of Captain Edward Sabine at the Anniversary of 1828, he entered the weekly meetings in a book which he procured for that purpose, and when upon his leaving England to join his regiment in Ireland, I was elected Treasurer at the Anniversary on June 10, 1830 I continued to enter the weekly meetings as he had done. Still, as during the period of Mr. Moore’s Treasurership, from June 1818 to January 1828, no entries had been made, and as I was very desirous to hand down to my successor the records of the Club as complete as circumstances would allow, I obtained leave of the Club at the Anniversary Meeting on June 23rd 1836, to have this omission supplied. My first intention was to put these loose papers into the hands of some competent person in order to have them regularly entered, but as I should have had to instruct and supervise continually, during the progress of the work, it appeared to me that perhaps I should find little more trouble in copying these papers myself, than in having to look after the work when performed by another. I therefore purpose, Deo volente, to undertake the business myself, and gradually, as time and opportunity permit, to bring up this arrear of nine years and a half, which will make an unbroken series of records of Club meetings from March 1748 to the present day.

“ I commence this day (Sept. 6, 1836), and if life and health should be graciously continued, hope to complete the same.”

Joseph Smith

Grays Inn.

But it would seem that the omission to enter the record of the weekly meetings in the volume provided for the purpose is not the only fault which has to be charged against Daniel Moore. The Minute of the Anniversary of 1819 was the first which he had to prepare, and it might have been anticipated that he would take special pains that it should be accurate. Sir Joseph Banks was in the chair, and he

continued to preside at most of the weekly meetings for eight months afterwards. He was still President of the Royal Society and continued to fill that office until his death next year. Yet the Treasurer concludes his minute thus: "Resolved that Sir Humphry Davy be President and Mr. Moore Treasurer, and that the thanks of the Club be given to the latter for his care of the Accounts." In the Minutes of the Anniversary of 1820 it is stated that "the minutes of 8th July 1819 were read and confirmed." It is hardly conceivable that this blunder of substituting the name of Sir Humphry Davy for that of Sir Joseph Banks could have been read aloud without at once being pointed out by the audience.¹ The suspicion arises that his minutes of the Anniversaries, like those of the weekly meetings, were written on slips of paper, not always during the proceedings, or immediately after, but when his recollection was not always clear as to details, and that at some subsequent time they were neatly copied by an amanuensis into the Minute-book, where they remain without alteration. As will be pointed out in the narrative of later years, the Minutes of the Anniversaries during this Treasurer's tenure of office after 1824 were not copied into the book kept for the purpose, and have only been imperfectly recovered.

Regarding the two new members added to the Club at the anniversary of 1819, a few words may here be inserted.

H. T. Colebrooke had spent many years in India, where he not only held several legal posts in succession, but made himself an able Sanscrit scholar. He published among other works an "Essay on the Vedas," and a Sanscrit grammar and Lexicon. He returned to England in 1814 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1816.

Sir Alexander Johnston has been already referred to (p. 235) as frequently dining with the Club, and he now proved an assiduous and active member. He became F.R.S. in 1810.

¹ This Anniversary in 1820 was presided over by Dr. Wollaston, who was elected by the Council of the Royal Society to fill the vacant office of President till the election of officers on next St. Andrew's Day.



WILLIAM HYDE WOLLASTON, M.D., F.R.S., 1793.

President, Royal Society, 1820.



The visitors this year who appeared at the Club for the first time included some men of note. The scientific side was represented by Henry Thomas De la Beche, another of the founders of English geology. To his energy and skill in dealing with governmental officialdom we owe the establishment of a School of Mines in this country, and the creation of the Geological Survey, which is the parent of all the geological surveys since established by the civilised nations of the world. He likewise created the Museum of Practical Geology in Jermyn Street, which was the first institution wherein the geological history of the country is illustrated by specimens arranged in stratigraphical sequence, and in which a systematic collection of rocks and minerals is brought together in reference to their economic uses. He was, moreover, the author of some valuable papers and text-books which did much to advance the cultivation of geology in this country. He came to the Club on May 27th, invited by Sir Everard Home. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society on 23rd December of this year.

Another famous leader in science, Robert Brown, one of the best botanists of his age, and one of the most modest and tender-hearted of men, came to the Club twice during the summer.

Captain Colby, also a visitor, was a distinguished engineer officer, for forty-five years attached to the Ordnance Survey. In that service his high ability led to his being appointed Director in 1820, on the death of General Mudge. He filled this post with great success for twenty-six years. In the same year on which he received the appointment he was elected into the Royal Society.

The public services were further represented among the visitors. Thus, Lord Glenbervie furnished another illustration of how a man may pass through more than one profession before he discovers for what he is best fitted. As Sylvester Douglas he was educated at Aberdeen University and like so many other Scottish students completed his studies and took his degree at Leyden. He first entered

on the practice of medicine, but he soon found that law would suit him better, and he became a barrister of Lincoln's Inn. But his ambition sought a wider field in politics. He first entered the Irish, then the English parliament, and filled a succession of public offices, for his services in which he was raised in 1800 to the Irish peerage, but with the Scottish title of Baron Glenbervie of Kincardine. Thereafter he was appointed successively joint Paymaster-general, Surveyor-general of Woods and Forests and finally Surveyor-general of the land revenue as well as of the Woods and Forests. In the spring of 1795, in the midst of his parliamentary career, he had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. He died in 1823, and his title then became extinct.

The Navy, had a worthy representative in Sir Murray Maxwell. He entered the service in 1790 and took part in much active work, greatly distinguishing himself by his skill, boldness and success. On his way back from China, with Lord Amherst on board, his vessel, in navigating the little-known and badly-charted Straits of Gaspar, ran on a rock and sustained fatal damage. The officers and crew, however, were soon rescued by an East India Company's ship. Arriving in England in August 1817, Maxwell had of course to be court-martialled, but he was entirely exonerated from blame, and received warm praise for his conduct at the wreck. He was knighted in the following year. These events were fresh in the recollection of the public when he dined with the Club on 11th March of this year. He had been made a Fellow of the Royal Society three weeks before.

Another naval officer who has already been mentioned (p. 256) and whose name will appear on subsequent pages, Captain Basil Hall, dined several times at the "Crown and Anchor" in the last weeks of the year.

Two foreigners were among the guests this year, Prince Walkouski and Count Dallier, the Sardinian ambassador.

Before passing on to the record of the following year we may note that before the next anniversary Sir Joseph Banks, who for so long a period presided over the

Royal Society and the Club, had passed away. In spite of the advance of age and the severe bodily disablement under which he had for so many years courageously done his duty, he continued to take his wonted place up almost to the very last. He presided at twenty-seven dinners of the Club in 1819 and at five during the early months of the following year. His last appearance was on March 16th 1820. He died on June 19th. His was a long and great career. If he contributed little original work to the temple of science, no man of his generation did more than he to advance its building, by his ceaseless activity in providing materials for others to work on, by the generous use he made of his wealth, and by the magnetic influence of his character and his example.

CHAPTER IX

PRESIDENTSHIPS OF WILLIAM HYDE WOLLASTON, HUMPHRY DAVY AND DAVIES GILBERT, 1820-1830

1820. SIR JOSEPH BANKS died a fortnight before the Anniversary of the Club in 1820. The Council of the Royal Society, in accordance with their statutes, met ten days after his death and elected Dr. William Hyde Wollaston to be the President until the Society's next anniversary on St. Andrew's Day, 30th November following, when the Council and Officers would be chosen by the general body of the Fellows. Dr. Wollaston accordingly became also President of the Club until St. Andrew's Day.

The Anniversary Meeting in 1820 was held on 6th July when the following company was present :

Dr William Hyde Wollaston, President

Sir Everard Home	Matthew Raper
John Barrow	Baron Best
Thomas Murdoch	Aylmer B. Lambert
Sir Alexander Johnston	Dr. William G. Maton
Henry Browne	Charles Hatchett
Sir Humphry Davy	Charles Wilkins
Sir Gilbert Blane	William Thomas Brande
Taylor Combe	Henry Thomas Colebrooke
Robert H. Inglis	Sir Benjamin Hobhouse
Davies Gilbert	

Daniel Moore, Treasurer

The Treasurer announced that the expenses since the last Anniversary had amounted to £97 3s. 6d. and that there remained in his hands a balance of £57 7s. 4d. But

to this balance there were due to be added £22 from eleven members for the past year and £32 from five members for more than a year, so that if these arrears were paid the available balance would be raised to £111 7s. 4d. It was resolved that the contribution for the ensuing year should be £2, which when received from the 45 members composing the Club would make a fund of £90.

The attendance at the dinners since the last Anniversary amounted in all to 820 diners, of whom 678 were members and 142 were visitors. It will be seen that in subsequent years the numbers were usually much smaller.

The list of absentees this year showed that eight members were in default, half of them for the preceding year and the rest for longer periods. It was decided that two of the defaulters should be removed from the list of members. As the result of the ballot three vacancies caused by the death of Lord Dundas, and the discontinuance of two absentees, were filled by the election of the Earl of Macclesfield, the Rev. Charles Parr Burney, and the Earl of Aberdeen.

The last paragraph of the minutes is as follows: "Resolved that Sir Humphry Davy Bart. be President, and Mr. Moore, Treasurer, and that the thanks of the Club be returned to the latter for his care of their accounts." Here again a statement has been inserted in the Minute-book which was contrary to fact. Dr. Wollaston was elected President of the Club at the weekly meeting on 29th June. He took the chair both at the Anniversary and at subsequent meetings of the Club up to St. Andrew's Day. At six of these meetings Sir Humphry Davy was present as an ordinary member, and Dr. Wollaston occupied the chair. It is difficult to account for such misstatements, unless on the supposition, already suggested, that the Treasurer's minutes were written some time afterwards from rough and imperfect notes which a treacherous memory failed to keep accurate.

The three new members elected this year all belonged to families which had already contributed to the member-

ship of the Club. Lord Macclesfield was the grandson of the second Earl, for so many years President of the Royal Society and of the Club. He was thus the fourth holder of the title. He became F.R.S. in 1818.

The Earl of Aberdeen had already dined with the Club (p. 239) and he now frequently attended the weekly meetings. Since he first came as a guest he had taken a prominent part in the political history of the time, for he had been Ambassador-Extraordinary at Vienna in 1813 and British representative at the fruitless Congress at Chatillon, where the attempt was made to come to peaceable terms with Napoleon. His services were rewarded by the grant of a peerage of the United Kingdom, and he thereafter sat in the House of Lords as Viscount Gordon. Throughout the strenuous parliamentary life of more than thirty years which still lay before him, he never lost his interest in the progress of science and literature. The presidency of the Society of Antiquaries, to which he was elected in 1812, he continued to hold till 1846.

The Rev. Charles Parr Burney was the son of the Greek scholar and grandson of the musician. He was elected F.R.S. in 1814.

At the Anniversary of the Royal Society on St. Andrew's Day this year Sir Humphry Davy was elected President. Accordingly he took the chair at the first meeting of the Club thereafter. Since he came to London in 1801 his rise into world-wide fame had been steady and rapid. Installed in the laboratory of the Royal Institution he advanced from one triumph to another. Demonstrating the existence of a series of new metals in the alkalies and earths, proving chlorine to be an element, investigating the nature of fire-damp, inventing the safety-lamp for miners, and lastly recognising the genius of Faraday and starting him on his path. The originality and brilliance of his discoveries were amply acknowledged at home and abroad. The Royal Society promptly bore its testimony to the value of his work by electing him a Fellow in 1803, bestowing on him its Copley Medal in 1805, and now in 1820 by electing him

to be its President. He was knighted in 1805, and created a baronet in 1818. Most of the learned societies in this country and in all civilised lands vied with each other in bestowing their honorary membership upon him. It is sad to reflect that this fertile and energetic intellect was cased in a body too weak to stand the strain to which it was subjected. He passed away at the comparatively early age of 51.

Among the visitors to the Club this year was Henry Hallam, the historian, who appears to have found the company congenial, for he returned in successive years and in 1826 joined the Club as a member. "Captⁿ Napier" was perhaps the future Admiral, affectionately called by his sailors "Charlie Napier," who led a stirring life marked by some heroic incidents. In his later years he entered Parliament, but at the time of the Crimean war he took to sea again, and commanded the fleet in the Baltic.

In the early part of the year, while Sir Joseph Banks was still able to attend the Club, he continued to invite guests of some note. Thus on February 3rd he brought Sir Robert Townsend Farquhar, Governor and Commander-in-chief of Mauritius, where he had succeeded in suppressing the slave-trade; also Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin, who had retired from the navy in 1808 and was now a member of Parliament. On the 17th of the same month his guest was "Mr. Hume," not improbably the famous radical politician, who had been elected into the Royal Society at the beginning of 1818.

Among other visitors who had dined before with the Club were Charles Babbage, Francis Chantrey, Captain Basil Hall, Thomas Young, Professor Buckland and Captain Parry.

1821. On 28th June 1821 the Club held its annual General Meeting, when twenty-three members were present, and the President, Sir Humphry Davy, occupied the chair. According to the statement made by the Treasurer the expenses since the last anniversary amounted to £123 2s. and the balance in hand to £53 9s. 4d. The contribution for the following year was fixed at £2. Although several members

had not attended during the past twelve months and one or two for still longer periods, the regulation as to absentees was not put in force against any of them. One member, Mr. Greville, had resigned. The vacancy thus caused was filled by the election of Captain Henry Kater, about whom some particulars have been given (p. 260).

It has been already remarked how seldom any reference to outside contemporaneous events is to be met with in the chronicles of the Club. This year one such allusion occurs. At the date July 19th the whole entry consists of three lines: "Coronation of George 4th. No attendance." Had the event happened on any other day of the week but Thursday there would probably have been no mention of the coronation. But the festivities would interfere with the usual routine at the "Crown and Anchor," not to speak of the illuminations and fireworks which, as at the time of the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle (p. 32), even philosophers liked to behold.

The attendance at the dinners throughout the first half of this year continued remarkably full. It was seldom below ten, often above twenty. On one occasion (8th February) it rose to thirty-one, but this number included eleven guests, among whom were two foreigners, MM. Mirebec and Picaut. Later in the spring Mr. Davies Gilbert introduced M. Rigaud, and the President brought M. Reimker. The most noted stranger at the dinners of the Club this year was the distinguished geometer and statistician Charles Dupin, introduced by Sir Humphry Davy. From 1816 to 1821 this enlightened Frenchman was engaged in making an exhaustive enquiry into the organisation of the army and the administrative and political institutions of Great Britain. The results of his labours were published at Paris (1820-1824) in six quarto volumes with three folio atlases. He was so filled with admiration for what he saw here that he could not conceal his sympathies. When the first part appeared in 1820, however, the French Government insisted on his suppressing the encomiastic passages and when he refused, his work was interdicted, especially to



JOHN BRINKLEY, D.D., F.R.S.
First Astronomer-Royal for Ireland, 1792.

the Army and the Fleet. But the repression was brief, for the great success of the book and the stir which it made compelled the authorities to withdraw their futile attempts to stifle it. The author was awarded the cross of the Legion of Honour, and was afterwards created a baron. He was made much of in Britain by politicians and learned societies. Many years later he took an active part in furthering French interests in the preparations for the great Exhibition of 1851.

The visitors from the British Isles and the Colonies included a number of notable men. Among them there appears on the January dinner-lists the name of "Sir George Cockburn." It happened at this time that there were two knights of this name, one in the Navy and one in the Army. No indication is supplied by the register as to which of the two Sir Humphry Davy invited. The representative of the army was a General who had been aide-de-camp to Eliott, the brave defender of Gibraltar, and in later years had journeyed through Sicily and published notes of his travels. The naval man was an Admiral who had seen much active life in the Mediterranean, the North Sea and North America, but who will be best remembered for having conveyed Napoleon to St. Helena in 1815.

"Mr. Peacock" was probably the Rev. George Peacock, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, a distinguished mathematician, who became Lowndean Professor of Astronomy and afterwards Dean of Ely.

"Mr. James South," a guest of the President on April 12th, was doubtless the astronomer who had engaged in observational work with the younger Herschel in London and with Laplace in Paris, and was one of the founders of the Astronomical Society. He was knighted in 1830.

"Dr. Ure" may be identified as Andrew Ure, Professor of Chemistry in Anderson's College, Glasgow, and widely known for his useful dictionaries of chemistry, and of arts, manufactures and mines. He was elected F.R.S. on 13th December this year.

"Dr. M'Culloch," invited by Sir Humphry Davy on June 21st, may have been John Macculloch the geologist,

who was at this time much in evidence. He had been President of the Geological Society in 1816-18, had published in 1819 his now classic volumes on the Western Isles, and issued this year his treatise on the Classification of Rocks, while three years later he gave to the public four volumes of letters to Sir Walter Scott on the Highlands and Islands which roused the wrath of the West Highlanders to fever-heat. He was elected into the Royal Society on 18th May 1820.

Another friend and correspondent of Scott, William Sotheby, dined with the Club on several occasions about this time, and was elected a member next year. Some particulars about him are given in the record of 1822.

"Dr. Somerville," the guest of Dr. Wollaston, was probably the husband of Mary Somerville, whose writings in science, and especially her "Connection of the Physical Sciences," made her one of the most eminent women of her day. He married her in 1812. Towards the end of 1817 he was elected into the Royal Society, and two years later he became physician to Chelsea Hospital.

A large number of former visitors dined again with the Club this year. They included Lord Melville, Charles Babbage, Professor Buckland, Captain Parry, Captain Sabine, Henry Holland, Henry Hallam, Francis Chantrey, Sir Thomas M. Brisbane, Sir Sidney Smith, Captain Basil Hall, Zachary Macaulay, Mr. Croker, and Dr. Young.

1822. At the Anniversary on 6th June 1822, over which the President presided and which was attended by twenty-six members, the Treasurer's statement of the financial position of the Club showed that the tavern bills had amounted altogether to £127 6s. 6d., leaving in hand a balance of £16 6s. 10d., to which there should be added £32 of unpaid arrears due from several members. It was decided that the contribution from each member for the ensuing year should be £3. The death of John Rennie was reported. The names of six members were announced who had not attended for more than twelve months, including one who had not appeared for five years. The patience of the Club

had now reached the utmost limit of toleration, and three of these offenders were struck off. The other three were old and valued members against whom no action was taken. Four vacancies were accordingly declared, and on a ballot these were filled by the election of [John ?] Walker, William Sotheby, John Frederick William Herschel, and Francis Chantrey.

It was resolved that the Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society should henceforth be an *ex-officio* member of the Club, thus giving an official place in the Club to Thomas Young, and that in future the Anniversary should be held on the first Thursday in June after Whitsun-week.

Of the new members Francis Chantrey, the eminent sculptor, has been already mentioned as a visitor (p. 254). He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1818, and being now a member of the Club he attended the meetings, not infrequently introducing a guest.

William Sotheby, though his name is mainly associated with his renderings of Homer and Virgil into English verse and with some rather weak original poems and plays, had in his youth been in the army. During the spring of 1805 he was introduced to Sir Walter Scott, who immediately said that it was not the first time that he had had the pleasure of seeing him; for he well remembered, when he was a boy in the High School of Edinburgh, being punished for having left his class in order to follow a troop of the Tenth Dragoons who were advancing up the street, headed by Mr. Sotheby, to quell a mutinous Highland regiment, then in temporary possession of the Castle. Sir Walter related this with his usual animation, adding: "Had the Highlanders fired down the street, we poets might both have been swept away." Sotheby had been elected into the Royal Society in 1794 and he took an active part in the Dilettante Society. He translated the Iliad and Odyssey when he was past seventy years of age.

John F. W. Herschel, brilliant son of a distinguished father, was now thirty years of age and had already entered on a career which proved as fruitful as it was strenuous,

marked not only by masterly contributions to physical science but by a literary distinction seldom found in men of science. After a brilliant opening at Cambridge, where he was senior wrangler and first Smith's prizeman, he was promptly elected into the Royal Society when only twenty-one. Eight years later the Society awarded him its Copley Medal. In the Club, which he now joined, he continued for nearly half a century to take a personal interest. He had dined several times as a guest in the first half of the year ; at the first meeting after the Anniversary he took advantage of his right as a member to invite Charles Babbage as his guest, and he repeated the invitation again and again before the end of the year.

The effort to secure a good attendance at the autumn dinners had now become feebler each year. In 1822 from the beginning of August to the middle of October the average number for each dinner was 4.5. At one dinner there were only two, and at another nobody appeared.

The list of guests this year supplies a good example of the wide range of interests which the members recognised in their invitations. Thus, with so active a coadjutor as the Bishop of Carlisle the Church was not likely to be overlooked. He invited younger clerics to the dinners, perhaps with the liberal intention of showing them by practical experiment that the Philosophers were really a social and interesting company, with whom even the most orthodox churchman might fraternise without injury to his principles or his usefulness. Now and then another high ecclesiastical dignitary was invited, and this year the Bishop of Salisbury came.

The two great military services, which until only a few years before had for so long been fighting for their country in all parts of the world, were seldom unrepresented. This year from the Navy there came some typical sailors. Among these were Admiral Sir Edward Codrington, who had fought at Trafalgar, and had still twenty years of active service before him ; Franklin, who again dined with the Club on 21st November, having come back from his great expedition

through the intricate water-ways of Arctic America to receive promotion for his services, and to be elected into the Royal Society; and Lieutenant Back, present at the same dinner, who had accompanied Franklin in his recent expedition in North America, and was yet to win renown by his own independent explorations in the Arctic regions. William Scoresby, too, was once more a visitor at the Club's table. Another name connected with the Navy may here be included, that of Sir Robert Seppings, the naval architect, who dined on May 16th. He had done so much to improve the construction of ships that at this time he was Surveyor of the navy. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1814, received the award of the Copley Medal in 1818, and was knighted in 1819.

The Army was well represented in Major Colby, the able officer of engineers, now at the head of the Ordnance Survey. General Phipps was the guest of Sir Humphry Davy on November 17th. Colonel Drinkwater, who dined on April 18th, was probably the graphic historian of the siege of Gibraltar, through which he had himself served. He had now retired from active service, but held the office of Comptroller of army accounts. He lived to be an octogenarian and died in 1844.

With such men in the Club as Sir Everard Home and Sir Gilbert Blane the medical profession was sure to be looked after in the matter of invitations. Among the visitors from that profession this year were Sir Henry Hallford, a physician of eminence who attended George IV. and in later years William IV. and Queen Victoria, Dr. Henry Holland, not infrequently a visitor, and Dr. Marcet, who dined on May 2nd.

The election of Francis Chantrey into the Club showed an appreciation of art as well as of the personal attraction of the artist. The President invited Sir Thomas Lawrence, the President of the Royal Academy, on March 7th.

The political world always furnished a relay of guests to the Club. One of the most prominent politicians this year was Lord Holland, nephew of Charles James Fox,

from whom he received his training in politics. When only an infant he had succeeded his father as third Baron Holland in 1774. He led an active life in the House of Lords as a liberal peer. His brilliant wife and he made their residence in London a centre in which all the wits, men of letters and prominent politicians of the day met each other. He was invited to the Royal Society Club by Lord Aberdeen, who at this time was not so immersed in parliamentary duties as to be unable now and then to dine with the Philosophers. Another political guest this year was Nicholas Vansittart, who dined the same evening as Lord Holland. He entered parliament in 1796 and filled various departmental posts until he became Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1812. He retained that office until 1823, when he was raised to the peerage with the title of Baron Bexley.

Science was of course fully recognised in the invitations to the Club. This year Professor Buckland, Charles Babbage, James South, Edward Sabine, and others of lesser note were again present at the meetings, sometimes several evenings in succession. It may be noted that on one of the occasions when Buckland dined, he was the guest of Chantrey, who, now a member, lost no time in beginning to exercise his rights of hospitality.

1823. The Anniversary of 1823 took place on 5th June and was attended by twenty-seven members, with the President in the chair. The Treasurer announced that the expenses since the last Anniversary amounted to £123 7s. 6d., leaving a balance in hand of £53 7s. 4d., to which arrears from two members amounting to £6 would fall to be added. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at £2 from each member.

The deaths of Baron Best and Sir William Herschel were reported. The two vacancies thus caused were filled by the election of Lord Darnley and Charles Babbage. Successive generations of the Earls of Darnley have been enrolled in the fellowship of the Royal Society. Edward the second Earl was elected into the Society in 1737; John, fourth Earl, was elected a Fellow in 1810, while Edward, the fifth

Earl, became F.R.S. in 1833. Charles Babbage, who has been already noticed, was elected into the Royal Society in 1816.

The autumn attendance, though slightly better than last year, was still below the limit for which in August 1818 it had been agreed that commons should be provided during the months of August, September and October (p. 257). As Sir Joseph Banks was no longer available, Sir Everard Home took great pains to attend during the autumn. This year he presided at every dinner between the end of July and the middle of October. But even this assiduity did not gather a sufficient company. On one occasion he had only as companions Mr. Murdoch and Mr. Barrow, who were quoted to him by Sir Joseph as staunch supporters of the autumn dinners. At another time only Mr. Symmons appeared, and on August 14th there was no attendance, so that if Sir Everard Home looked in on that evening he probably departed and dined elsewhere.

When in 1786 the Treasurer who then took office gave up the practice of preserving a record of the table of fare at each dinner the custom of acknowledging in the dinner register the gifts of venison, dessert and other presents for the table was likewise abandoned. We may suppose that the gifts did not wholly cease, but no record has been preserved of them. For the first time for many years there is now an entry in the dinner-register under date December 18th in the following words: "Resolved that the thanks of the Club be given to Lord Darnley for a very fine haunch of venison. Moved by the President and seconded by Sir Everard Home." One thinks of the days of Josiah Colebrooke, when the health of the donor was proposed in claret, with perhaps a unanimous resolution to make him an honorary member of the Club, and when the Treasurer was careful to see that the wine as well as the carriage and the cooking of the venison were paid for by the company then present.

A few eminent foreigners were visitors to the Club this year. The great Danish physicist, Hans Christian Oersted, founder of the science of electro-magnetism, was in London

for some months in the summer of this year. He had been elected into the Royal Society in 1821, and advantage was taken of this visit to England to have his signature entered in the Society's Charter-book. He dined six times with the Club, being successively the guest of Humphry Davy, Wollaston, Babbage and Kater. The last of these dinners (July 31) was attended only by Oersted, Babbage and Herschel, with the last-named as chairman.

On June 12th Mr. Children introduced as his guest "M. de Beaumont." It is fairly certain that this was the illustrious Élie de Beaumont, who for some forty years stood at the head of French geologists and, as the successor of Arago in the secretaryship of the Académie des Sciences, was closely connected with the progress of science in France. At the time of this visit to England he was only five-and-twenty, and having completed his studies at the École des Mines was now sent with Dufrénoy under the direction of Brochant de Villiers to make a report on the mineral industries of England and Scotland. This report, one of his earliest papers, appeared in 1827 as a "*Voyage Métallurgique en Angleterre.*"

The "M. Brochant" who dined at the same time with the young geologist as the guest of Sir Everard Home was no doubt the Brochant de Villiers just referred to. He was then about fifty, and it was in his capacity not merely of Professor of Geology, but of Inspector-general of Mines, that he had been sent by his Government on this mission of enquiry. It may be presumed that he came to Britain in order to make the necessary arrangements with the authorities in this country and start Élie de Beaumont and his colleague Dufrénoy on their enquiries. In later years these two associates produced after years of labour a magnificent geological map of France. Other foreigners have not been identified. Thus, on March 6th Mr. Children introduced Prince Cimetili; the week following Dr. Wollaston brought M. Nordenskjöld; in October Mr. Colebrooke twice invited M. Schlegel, and on December 4 the President had as his guest Count Rudolph.

A few scientific fellow-countrymen of note were included among the visitors this year. Baden Powell of Oriel College, Oxford, who next year was elected into the Royal Society, was in 1827 appointed to the Savilian professorship of geometry, which he held till his death in 1860. Francis Baily, successful stockbroker and accomplished astronomer, retired from business in 1825, when he was little over fifty, and devoted himself to the revision of star-catalogues and other astronomical studies, and to a fresh measurement of the weight of the globe by the method of Michell and Cavendish. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1821 and in 1835 became its Treasurer. Having been one of the founders of the Astronomical Society, he was elected four times its president. He lived till 1844. Thomas Andrew Knight, a distinguished vegetable physiologist and horticulturist, was elected into the Royal Society in 1805, and next year was the recipient of the Copley Medal. Professor Buckland came to dinner six times in the course of the year, being the guest successively of the President, Sir Robert Inglis, Dr. Wollaston, Mr. Murdoch and the Bishop of Carlisle.

The Rev. William Daniel Conybeare, Buckland's close friend and his associate in geological research, dined with the Club for the first time on June 12 as the guest of Captain Kater. Conybeare's name has been enshrined in the list of those early leaders by whom the infant science of geology was established in this country. In the previous year (1822), in conjunction with William Phillips, he had published his classic volume "Outlines of the Geology of England and Wales," which did so much to advance the study of the science in this country. Another now less known but in his day effective cultivator of science, Lewis Weston Dillwyn, was Wollaston's guest on February 27. He was a naturalist in the old sense of the word, but more especially a botanist, and had published many years before this time his "Natural History of British Confervae." He was member of parliament for Glamorganshire from 1832 to 1841 and took an active part in public affairs, especially those of his own county.

Captain Franklin and Captain Basil Hall were again to be seen this year at the Club's table. Literature was represented once more by Henry Hallam and John Wilson Croker. Chantrey invited John Soane, the Professor of Architecture to the Royal Academy who was gathering together the miscellaneous assemblage of works of art which he bequeathed to the nation and which is still to be seen in his house in Lincoln's Inn Fields.

The peerage was this year abundantly represented at the Club's table, including some peers who had not before been guests—the Duke of Somerset, Lords Aberdeen, Brownlow, Bexley, Cawdor, Darnley, Dartmouth, Macclesfield, Melville, Minto, Morton, and Spencer.

1824. The Anniversary of 1824, held on 17th June, was attended by twenty-one members, with the President in the chair. It was reported by the Treasurer that the expenses since the corresponding meeting in the previous year had amounted to £128 and that there was a balance in hand of £20 11s. 4d., to which there would be added £7 due from two members. It was resolved that the subscription from each member for the ensuing twelve months should be £3.

One vacancy was announced owing to the death of Mr. Walker, and another arising from non-attendance. The member who was now put out of the Club had attended twice during the year before. He was a statesman of the highest position, so immersed in public affairs as to be unable to give much attendance at the Club. It is difficult to understand on what grounds the regulation should have been at once put in force in his case, when other members who were several years absent were allowed to remain in the Club. As the result of the ballot the two vacancies were filled by the election of Lord Bexley and Jesse Watts Russell.

With reference to the resolution of 29th September 1748, "that those gentlemen who have not attended for twelve months, nor sent an excuse, be deemed no longer members," it was now "Resolved that in future the attendance of a member on the day of the Anniversary shall not be con-

sidered an attendance within the meaning of the said Resolution."

It was further agreed to appoint a special committee to revise the rules of the Club, that such rules when revised should be printed and that the list of the members should be annually printed.

The new member, Lord Bexley, who had been raised to the peerage since he was proposed for the membership, but is best remembered as Nicholas Vansittart, was elected F.R.S. in 1822. He was one of the peers who voted against the Reform Bill of 1832. He lived till 1851 and died in his eighty-fifth year, when, as he had no children, his title became extinct. Jesse Watts Russell was elected F.R.S. in 1821.

The attendance of the members during July, August and September sank lower this year than it had ever yet been. On two days no one came. The average attendance was less than three.

The most distinguished visitor of the year was Michael Faraday, who dined on January 15th as the guest of Sir Everard Home. He had become Davy's assistant twelve years before at the Royal Institution, where his genius had at last an opportunity to develop its marvellous powers. Whilst rendering great service to Davy, he showed himself to be an original discoverer who would strike out his own path. The Royal Society had discerned his merit by electing him a Fellow on the 8th of January of this year and a week thereafter he dined at the Club.

The "Mr. Airey" who dined on January 15th as John F. W. Herschel's guest was no doubt George Biddell Airy, the future Astronomer Royal. At this time he was a young man of three-and-twenty, senior wrangler and Smith's prizeman the year before, and now this year to gain his fellowship at Trinity. A brilliant scientific career followed this auspicious opening.

Another eminent man whose name was destined to become a familiar word in geological literature, but was still unknown outside the circle of his own acquaintance, dined

with the Club for the first time—Roderick Impey Murchison. He had served under Wellesley and Moore in the Peninsula, and been present at the Battle of Corunna. But after the conclusion of the war, when prospects of advancement in the military profession seemed to him dubious, he had sold out of the Army and had taken, among other employments, to fox-hunting. At Rokeby when staying with the Morritts he met Sir Humphry Davy, who urged him to turn his attention to science. He followed this advice, sold his horses, and began a diligent attendance on Brande's early morning lectures at the Royal Institution. He was at this time in his thirty-fifth year. The president invited him to the dinner on November 4th. The retired soldier had many curious experiences of warfare with which he could amuse and interest his auditors, while at the same time contact with the leaders of science, in the friendly converse of the "Crown and Anchor," would tend to stimulate him to perseverance in the new career on which he had entered.

Sir John Malcolm, the great administrator who spent so many strenuous years in India, having come back to England, was now engaged on some of the writings which will remain as a permanent memorial of his literary ability and his grasp of Eastern history. He dined with the Club on January 15th and again on March 25th.

Among the visitors who had previously attended the Club a considerable number were invited again this year. Professor Buckland's "clubbability" was as warmly welcomed as ever, for he again dined six times. His friend W. D. Conybeare came thrice. Captain Franklin, Captain Parry, Captain Basil Hall, Francis Baily, Sir Stamford Raffles, and Dr. Somerville also reappeared.

1825. The Anniversary in 1825 was held on June 2nd, but no minute of its proceedings has been entered in the Minute-book, and we should be ignorant of any business then transacted had it not been that among the separate papers left by the Treasurer a memorandum of some at least of the business was fortunately found. It appears from this document that the following was the company present :

Sir Humphry Davy, President

Sir Everard Home

John Symmons

Sir Gilbert Blane

Sir R. H. Inglis

Davies Gilbert

Charles Babbage

John F. W. Herschel

Dr. Thomas Young

John Barrow

Charles Wilkins

William Marsden

Henry Browne

H. T. Colebrooke

William T. Brande

Charles Hatchett

Daniel Moore, Treasurer

No statement of the expenses for the past year or of the amount of the contribution for the following year has been preserved. We learn, however, that one vacancy arose from the non-attendance of a member and that Major Colby (p. 265) was elected to fill the place. There is a further memorandum that "it was determined that the sum to be collected at table should remain as before at 8/." It had been suggested that the sum in question should be raised to 10s. This suggestion was discussed at a subsequent meeting, but no decision was then reached, the matter being deferred for consideration at the Anniversary this year, when the proposition was negatived. The total attendance at the dinners since the last Anniversary was 471, composed of 350 members and 121 visitors.

The attendance at the autumn meetings showed this year a further diminution, which set in much earlier than usual, for while the two dinners in the latter half of June were attended the one by only five and the other by only four persons, on July 7th no one came to the meeting. From the middle of June to the middle of November the twenty-one meetings mustered in all only fifty-nine diners. On five occasions only one member put in an appearance.

The most famous visitor this year was the French chemist and physicist Joseph Louis Gay-Lussac, who dined on April 14th as the guest of Sir Humphry Davy. He was then in his forty-seventh year, but his most important discoveries and researches had already been completed, and his reputation was world-wide. He and his colleague Biot

had been elected Foreign Members of the Royal Society on the same day in the year 1815. Biot placed his signature in the Society's Charter-book on the occasion of a visit which he paid to London in 1817, and now Gay-Lussac subscribed his name in the same venerable volume.

Another prominent man in a totally different field of intellectual activity was "Professor Bopp," introduced to the Club later in the year by Sir Alexander Johnston, if we may identify him with the noted philologist, Professor of Oriental Languages at the University of Berlin and author of the great "Comparative Grammar." On May 5th Sir George Staunton introduced Mr. Smithson, who has been already mentioned (p. 235). He was the illegitimate son of the Duke of Northumberland. Though born in France he was educated at Oxford, and showed marked ability in the study of mineralogy and chemistry. At first he bore the name of James Lewis Macie, and under this appellation he was elected into the Royal Society in 1787. He afterwards changed his name to Smithson, which was that of his father before he succeeded to the dukedom. He lived mostly on the continent of Europe, but maintained a correspondence with some of the most eminent men of science in England. When he died at Genoa it was found that by his will he had bequeathed a sum of more than £100,000 to the United States of America to found at Washington an establishment "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." Hence arose the beneficent Smithsonian Institution which has so ably carried out its founder's intention.

At the same table with Gay-Lussac there dined on April 14th a notable Englishman, William Henry Fox Talbot, whose name is imperishably connected with the earliest stages of the art of photography. He was introduced by Sir John Herschel. Captain Francis Beaufort, another guest, had already shown great skill in the coast survey of parts of South America and of Asia Minor, and a few years after this time he was made Hydrographer to the Admiralty, a post which he held for more than a quarter

of a century. He became Admiral and K.C.B. He had been made F.R.S. in 1814.

Among the other guests of the year most of whom had previously dined with the Club may be mentioned Francis Baily, Sir Stamford Raffles, William Buckland, W. D. Conybeare, Sir Richard Vyvyan, Sir William Eden, Duke of Marlborough, Sir Abraham Hume, Archdeacon Robert Nares, and L. W. Dillwyn.

1826. At the Anniversary of 1826, held on 1st June, when twenty-one members attended and the President took the chair, it was announced that the expenses since the previous Anniversary amounted to £92 7s. and that there was a balance in hand of £15 9s. 4d., to which there remained to be added unpaid arrears amounting to £12. The subscription to be paid by each member for the ensuing year was decided to be two pounds. One member's name was removed from the list for non-attendance. Only one vacancy had arisen, and Henry Hallam was duly elected to fill it. The accomplished historian had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society on 8th March 1821, and he had been frequently a guest of the Club.

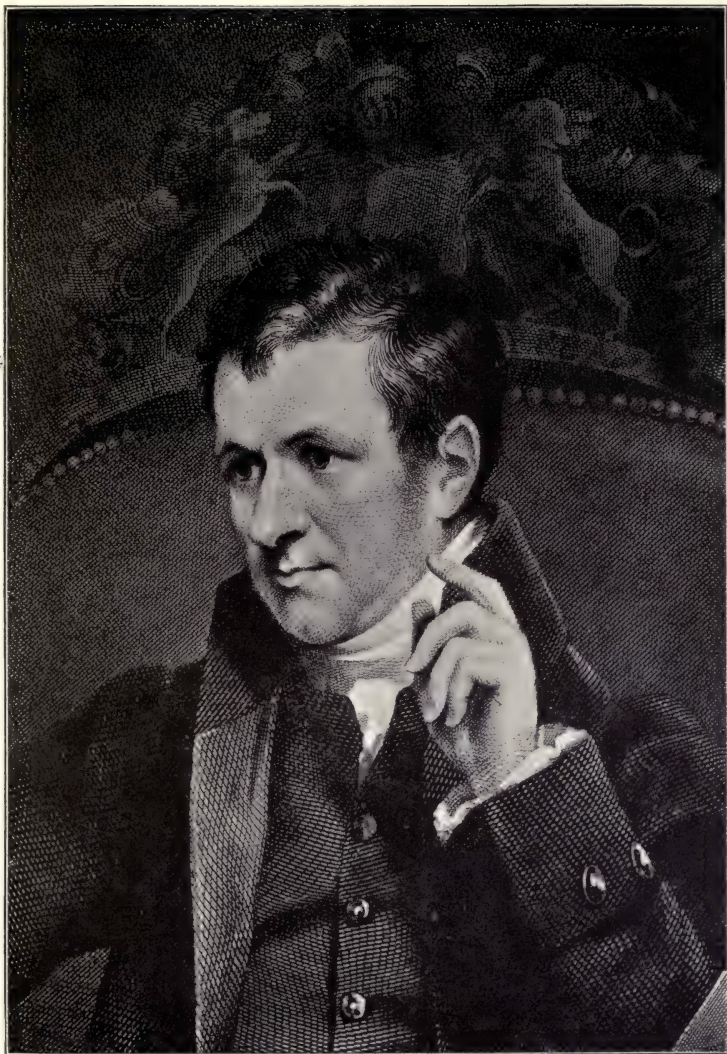
There was a marked decrease in the attendance this year at the weekly meetings. Between the middle of March and the end of October there were six dinners at which only one member appeared, and seven to which nobody at all came. Curious irregularities occurred in the summer and autumn. Thus for four weeks from the middle of July to the middle of August no one appeared, but in the second half of the latter month and in the second half of September the attendance was on the whole better than usual. On September 21st, however, Sir Everard Home had the dinner all to himself—an experience which might have brought home to him the inutility of upholding these meetings during the Royal Society's vacation. He evidently made a strong effort to secure a company for the following week. He not only invited three guests himself but seems to have appealed to Mr. Murdoch and Mr. Barrow as tried supporters of the autumn dinners. Both these members obeyed his appeal

and each brought a guest, so Sir Everard secured a party of eight in the dull season.

There are indications, moreover, of the rise of a custom among the philosophers to take a short recess at Easter and even also at Whitsuntide, for during those weeks the meetings were now beginning to be but thinly attended.

The Baron Dominique Jean Larrey, one of the greatest military surgeons of the age, accompanied by his son, dined with the Club on September 28th on the invitation of Sir Everard Home. He had served through Napoleon's campaigns and distinguished himself, not only by his great surgical skill and faculty of organisation, but by the superb bravery which he showed in succouring the wounded on the field of battle. At Wagram Napoleon was so struck with his devotion that he created him Baron on the spot. Taken prisoner at Waterloo he ran great risk of being shot by the Germans, but being brought to Blucher, whose son he had once saved, he was set at liberty and protected by an escort. After the war he continued to devote himself to the improvement of the medical arrangements in the French army and military hospitals in France and Algeria, and wrote many valuable contributions to military surgery. He lived until 1842 and died at Lyons at the age of seventy-six.

Sir Alexander Johnston took much pains to search out foreign visitors and to introduce them to the Club. On the 13th April he brought Count Einsiedelen and a fortnight later "Mr. Bertolacci." The latter was probably the son of the president of the supreme court of Corsica, and had been employed by the British Government as administrator of Ceylon. His hard work there, combined with the enervating influence of the tropical climate, compelled him at last to return to Europe. He lived for a time in this country and wrote here some works on political economy, and also in 1828 after the battle of Navarino a chivalrous little tract, in which he strongly advocated the closest alliance between Britain and France—a "*terrae marisque connubium*," in which the two great powers, continental and maritime,



SIR HUMPHRY DAVY, BART.

Pres. R.S., 1820-1827.



should be the guardians of the peace of the whole of Europe. He ultimately settled in France and died there in 1833.

The "Dr. Von Martius" who dined on June 29th may be identified with the eminent German botanist Carl Friedrich Philipp von Martius, one of the early explorers of Brazil, whose "*Reise nach Brasilien*" gave him a great reputation among the men of science of his day. His specially botanical writings, such as his splendid monograph on the Palms of South America, and above all his *Flora Braziliensis*, were important original contributions to science. Other foreign guests in the course of the year were Captain Erichsen, M. Bouvard, and M. Gompertz.

Among the English visitors to the Club this year for the first time was another of the early fathers of English geology—George Poulett Scrope, whose memory is affectionately cherished by the rapidly diminishing band of those who enjoyed his friendship. By researches among the extinct volcanoes of Central France, by his published views on volcanoes and volcanic action, and by his energetic advocacy of the potent influence of subaerial denudation in the formation of valleys and the shaping of the surface features of the land he did great service in advancing the progress of modern geology. He also wrote many pamphlets of a political kind, whence he was sometimes called "Pamphlet Scrope." He dined twice at the Club this spring, each time as the guest of Mr. Lambert.

Another labourer in the geological field, Dr. Babington, was this year the guest of the President. He was a well-known physician in London, who found time to give to the cultivation of science. He was elected into the Club in 1832.

General Sir Rufane Shaw Donkin, who dined with the Club in March and again in November, served in the Peninsular and Mahratta wars, and had been acting-governor at the Cape of Good Hope, in which capacity he took part in the founding of Port Elizabeth. He had been elected into the Royal Society on February 23rd of this year.

Sir Charles Wetherell, the Attorney General of the day, Sir George Nayler, Garter-King at arms, and the Windsor

Herald were also visitors, and among those who had already dined with the Club there came again this year Sir Stamford Raffles, Sir Edward Codrington, Captain Parry, Dr. Buckland, and Robert Brown.

Sir Humphry Davy's connection with the Club was now drawing to a close. He attended it for the last time on the 23rd November of this year. He had presided at its weekly meetings as frequently as the state of his health would permit, but he always needed a long rest in autumn, so that for about three months in that part of the year he did not appear. Even with the advantage of that recess, the malady from which he suffered increased its hold upon him, so that his attendance at the last was little more than the half of what it had been at the beginning of his tenure of office. He was able to preside for the last time at the Anniversary of the Royal Society on St. Andrew's Day this year. But his days for active scientific work were now passed. He went abroad, travelled in Europe, wrote as a pleasant occupation for his pen his well-known volumes "*Salmonia, or Days of Fly-fishing*" and "*Consolations in Travel*," and at last worn out with mental toil and enfeebled health, died at Geneva on 29th May 1829, when only in the fifty-first year of his age.

1827. The Anniversary in 1827 took place on June 14th, Dr. Davies Gilbert presiding. There were twenty-two members present. A copy of rough notes made by the Treasurer of the proceedings at this meeting was found among his papers after his death, from which it appeared that the expenses for the year had amounted to £90 7s. 6d., leaving a balance in hand of £12 3s. 10d., to which might be added £16 of arrears from six members. The Treasurer's notes recommended that the subscription should be made £3, and it may be presumed that this suggestion was adopted. The death of Taylor Combe was announced. A vacancy arose from the death of Matthew Raper, and another from the election of Mr. Children to be Secretary of the Royal Society, which entitled him to become an *ex officio* member of the Club. These vacancies were filled by the

election of Francis Baily and the Rev. Dr. Edmund Goodenough.

Mr. Baily's qualifications have already (p. 281) been given. He had been elected into the Royal Society in 1821. Dr. Goodenough was the son of the Bishop of Carlisle already mentioned (p. 233). He was at this time headmaster of Westminster School, and afterwards was appointed Dean of Wells. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1824.

In the absence of the President the chair was taken by Sir Everard Home, Dr. Wollaston, Mr. Davies Gilbert, Mr. Marsden, or other member of long-standing. The Treasurer's health was now failing, but he was able to attend most of the meetings up to the date of the Anniversary; his last appearance at the Club was on August 16th. He died on 6th January 1828 in his sixty-ninth year. Before arrangements could be made to carry on the affairs of the Club intimation was received from the landlord of the "Crown and Anchor Tavern" that he intended to give up the premises at Michaelmas this year. As a sale of the furniture of the house would then take place no meetings of the Club were held after August 30th until November 15th, when the sittings of the Royal Society were resumed after the recess. The Society met on 5th November when a letter from Sir Humphry Davy was read, intimating his resignation of the Presidentship. On the same date the Council nominated Mr. Davies Gilbert to be President and this nomination was confirmed by the Society at its Anniversary on the 30th of the month. It does not appear from the records whether the "Crown and Anchor" was dismantled, as the landlord designed. Certainly the Club continued to dine there for twenty years more.

The most illustrious foreign guest of the year was Baron von Humboldt (p. 253), who dined on May 3rd on the invitation of Captain Kater, Mr. Davies Gilbert being in the chair. On that occasion there was a party of twenty—Colonel Colby brought Murchison; Sir Alexander Johnston introduced Captain Beaufort, Mr. Babbage was host to Dr. Lardner, who this year became Professor of Natural Philo-

sophy at the London University. Mr. Children invited his mineralogical friend Thomas Allan, and Mr. Herschel entertained his astronomical colleague James South.

Francis Chantrey on March 1st introduced Dr. Herbert Mayo, surgeon and physiologist, whose work on the nerves of the face led to his being elected next year into the Royal Society, and who is remembered as the originator of the medical school at the Middlesex Hospital. At this same dinner over which Mr. Marsden presided there were also present as members Earl Spencer, Sir Benjamin Hobhouse, James Barrow, Sir Alexander Johnston, Charles Hatchett, J. G. Children, and Dr. Burney, and as visitors Captain Basil Hall, Mr. Brunel, John Edward Gray of the zoological department of the British Museum, and Mr. Bell.

1828. The Anniversary in 1828 was held on June 5th, when twenty-four members attended and Mr. Davies Gilbert took the chair. Several events since the previous Anniversary had occurred to interrupt the normal course of the business. The change in the Presidentship of the Royal Society introduced a new Chairman into the Club. The death of the Treasurer on 6th January was considered at the meeting of the Club on the 10th, and in the absence of the President, the members then present requested Captain Edward Sabine to act temporarily as Treasurer. Captain Sabine had been appointed to be one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society on 30th November, and now entered the Club as an *ex officio* member. At the same time the other Secretaryship of the Society had been filled by the election of Dr. Peter Mark Roget, who now also became a member of the Club *ex officio*. Dr. Roget, a medical graduate of Edinburgh University, while engaging in the active practice of physician had given much close attention to physiological problems. He was in 1833 selected as the first Fullerian professor of Physiology of the Royal Institution. To literary men he is perhaps best known as the author of the useful "Thesaurus of English Words and Phrases." He was elected into the Royal Society in 1815.

Captain Sabine, acting as Treasurer, reported that he had

received the books, papers and cash-balance belonging to the Club from the executors of the late Treasurer, as far as they had been up till that time ascertained. It appeared that the expenses since the previous anniversary amounted to £70 9s. 6d. and the balance in hand was estimated to amount to £90 18s. 4d., subject to the deduction of any payments which the executors might discover to have been made by Mr. Moore. To meet the expenditure for the ensuing year a contribution of two pounds was levied on each of the members, who numbered forty-five.

The death of the Bishop of Carlisle was announced, in addition to that of the late Treasurer. The questions of non-attendance and non-payment of arrears of contributions were again considered. Only in one case did the meeting resolve to strike off the name of the defaulter from the list of members, and in regard to two members one of whom had died and the other had been declared to be no longer a member, their arrears were ordered to be omitted from next year's statement of the credits of the Club.

There were five vacancies in the membership which were filled by ballot and the following persons were declared to be duly elected: Captain James Beaufort, R.N., William Haseldine Pepys, Joseph Sabine, Thomas Phillippo and Joseph Smith.

The resolution of the anniversary of 1824 that "the list of the members be annually printed" was rescinded by ballot.

A recess of the Club in the present year from August 1st to October 1st was put to the ballot and declared in the affirmative.

Mr. Davies Gilbert was elected President, and Captain Edward Sabine Treasurer of the Club, for the ensuing year.

Of the new members now elected a few words may be said here. Captain Beaufort, of whom some particulars have already been stated (p. 286), was elected into the Royal Society in 1814. W. H. Pepys, who became F.R.S. in 1808 and had often dined with the Club as a guest, has also been already mentioned (p. 235). Joseph Sabine, brother of

the new Treasurer, was a barrister who had given up his legal practice and become a noted horticulturist. He was one of the original fellows of the Linnean Society and became F.R.S. in 1799. Thomas Phillipps was elected into the Royal Society in 1820. Joseph Smith has already been mentioned in the foregoing chapter (p. 262) as the praiseworthy Treasurer of the Club who in 1836 collected Daniel Moore's separate papers, which might otherwise have been lost, and entered in due order in the register the Minutes of the weekly meetings of the Club for a period of nine years and a half. He was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn in 1808 at the age of thirty-three, and from that time till the end of his long life he continued to reside within the precincts of the Inn. He was not entirely engrossed, however, in the pursuit of the law. He took an interest in science and is said to have been well acquainted with British plants. He became a Fellow of the Linnean Society in 1811. Eight years later he was admitted into the Royal Society and was a constant attendant at its meetings. He must have been regarded with respect and esteem by the members of the Club, for in 1830 they elected him Treasurer, an office which he filled with success for the long interval of a quarter of a century.

The resolution of the Club to cancel the meetings from the 1st of August to the 1st of October was extended in actual practice into November. The members appear to have been in such a hurry to enjoy their long vacation that, although on July 31st dinner was provided for six, no one came to partake of it. The meetings of the Club, as appears from the register, were in fact not resumed until 20th November. Another indication of a falling away from the Spartan regime of the early days of the Club is seen in relation to Yuletide. In the reign of Josiah Colebrooke Christmas Day and New-Year's Day were not allowed to interrupt the even tenor of the ways of the Royal Philosophers who, when these festivals happened on Thursday, met together at the Mitre as usual. This year no dinner was arranged for Christmas Day, while for January 1st,

as the Treasurer's minute records, "dinner for six only was provided; but no member attended."

Another of the fathers of English geology, William Henry Fitton, dined with the Club this year on the invitation of Captain Sabine. He was at that time forty-eight years of age, had studied under Robert Jameson at Edinburgh, and like so many of the students of that staunch Wernerian had acquired a liking for geology. He gave up the medical profession which he had followed for a few years, and having married a wealthy lady devoted himself to geological pursuits. He had much literary power, and contributed valuable articles to the early numbers of the *Edinburgh Review*. He had already begun the elaborate original researches into the Greensand of Southern England, which is now classic in the history of English geology. He had been elected into the Royal Society in 1815, and was this year President of the Geological Society. Both Buckland and Conybeare were again visitors to the Club.

The "Mr. Wyattville" invited by Chantrey was probably the architect and Royal Academician who this year became Sir Jeffry Wyattville. He carried out extensive alterations on Windsor Castle.

Viscount Goderich, who dined with the Club on May 1st had passed an active life as a politician. He entered the House of Commons as the Hon. Frederick John Robinson, and filled various posts till he became Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1822, and in 1827 was raised to the peerage. In the House of Lords he continued his political career, becoming for a short time Prime Minister. After the passing of the Reform Bill of 1832 he was created Earl of Ripon. He had been elected into the Royal Society only a fortnight before he dined with the Club.

The visitors who had previously been guests included Earl Brownlow, Sir Abraham Hume, Mr. Dillwyn, Sir John Sinclair, John Edward Gray and Robert Brown.

1829. At the Anniversary Meeting in 1829, held on June 4th, when the President and other twenty-two members were present, the Treasurer made a statement regarding the

winding up of the affairs of the late Treasurer so far as the interests of the Club were concerned. The result of the investigation was entirely satisfactory: the meeting could be informed that "the embarrassment in the accounts of the Club occasioned by the loss of the late Treasurer is thus terminated."

It was further reported that the expenses since the previous Anniversary amounted to £120 11s. 6d. and that the balance actually in hand was £38 12s. 10d., though to this sum when arrears of subscriptions were paid £23 would be added.

The contribution for the ensuing year was again fixed at £2.

The losses of the Club by death during the past year were exceptionally severe, for they included two of the most distinguished members—William Hyde Wollaston and Thomas Young. Wollaston became seriously ill from a painful brain disease in the latter part of the year 1828. On St. Andrew's Day the President announced the award of a Royal Medal to him for his scientific work; but it came too late, for he died three weeks after the announcement. Sir John Barrow records of Wollaston's illness that "when he was nearly in the last agonies, one of his friends having observed, loud enough for him to hear, that he was not conscious of what was passing around him, he made a sign for pencil and paper. He then wrote down some figures, and after casting up the sum, returned the paper. The amount was correct."¹

The death of Thomas Young at the comparatively early age of fifty-six was a grievous loss to science. He continued up to the end to fill the office of Foreign Secretary to the Royal Society which he had held since 1804. Another death this year was that of Roger Wilbraham.

In considering the question of the enforcement of the regulation as to non-attendance, the meeting at this Anniversary decided that Major Rennell should be in future a permanent member of the Club without reference to his

¹ *Sketches of the Royal Society*, p. 65.

attendance or otherwise—a fit recognition of his long and useful membership and his great distinction in geographical research. But he was now in his eighty-seventh year, and he died a few months afterwards.

There was only one new member elected—Captain Basil Hall, son of Sir James Hall, Bart., the associate of Hutton and Playfair. He entered the Royal Navy at the age of fourteen, and became a post-captain in 1817. Having command of a sloop in the escort of Lord Amherst's mission to China in 1816 he had the opportunity of visiting the little-known coasts of the Corea, and thereafter he saw service on the coasts of Chili, Peru and Mexico. He possessed considerable literary power and, as already stated, wrote accounts of his journeys which became popular. His "*Fragments of Voyages and Travels*" went through many editions. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1816. He died insane in Haslar Hospital in 1844.

Neither in the Minute-book nor in the Dinner-register is there any reference to the decision of the Club about the autumn dinners; the customary practice of the Club to hold these dinners appears to have been resumed this year. The result, however, was more melancholy than ever. The defections began again in July. On the 23rd of that month two visitors came, but neither of the members who had invited them made their appearance. Next week only one member and his guest attended. At the first meeting in August neither member nor guest appeared. The week after there was a company of six, apparently largely brought together through the efforts of the Treasurer and his brother. From that date till the 19th November each week is entered in the register and after the date is regularly recorded "no attendance." It would thus appear that all through these months a dinner continued to be provided for a certain number at the expense of the Club. For the first time there is this year the recognition of a possible short vacation in the spring as shown by the entry: "April 16th and 23rd. The Easter recess: dinner ordered each day for four persons, but no attendance." Henceforth this recess

was recognised as existing, but dinner continued for a time to be provided, although usually no one attended.

A new custom begins to be observable this year in regard to visitors. Hitherto every guest was introduced by the President or by some member, and as we have seen, paid the price of his dinner, unless his host prevented this by himself defraying the charge. There now appears in the register the intimation that such and such a guest was invited "by the Club." We may presume that the Club undertook the whole duties of hospitality.

The foreign visitors this year included the following persons; Achille Valenciennes (invited by the Club), an able French naturalist, then only twenty-five years of age, the first volume of whose "*Histoire naturelle des Poissons*" appeared this year, and who lived to be the Professor of Anatomy and Comparative Physiology at the *Faculté des Sciences*, Paris; the Baron Férussac, another French naturalist, who began his career in the army in Spain during the Peninsular War, where eventually he received so serious a wound as to necessitate his return to France. Besides sharing in all the labours of his regiment, he at the same time made such an ample series of observations on the ancient geography, archaeology, geology and natural history of the country as enabled him on his retirement to write an interesting book on Andalusia. In later years he started the *Bulletin Universel des Sciences*, and was author of numerous separate works, as well as papers in journals, dealing with animal forms both recent and extinct. Other foreigners were Cavaliere Nobili, Count Revedin, M. Nehus and Baron von Mayendorf.

The English guests included one invited by the Club. His name is given as "Mr. Ritchie," with no indication as to which individual of that numerous gens he was. On the 26th February the President had as his guest "Mr. Tennyson." Again one would fain know who this was. The "*Poems by two Brothers*" had been published two years before, but the authors were still undergraduates, the one only twenty-one and the other only twenty. Possibly the

individual in question was Charles Tennyson who appears on the Royal Society list as having been elected a Fellow on 19th February of this year.

Arctic exploration was again well represented at the Club's table. On March 5th Captain Franklin and his associate among the ice-fields, Dr. John Richardson, were both among the guests. Since his last appearance at the Club, Franklin had carried out his second expedition to the mouth of the Mackenzie River, in which Richardson accompanied him. The two explorers divided their forces, and while Franklin took one route, Richardson followed another, both meeting again at Montreal. Franklin's services were recognised later in this year by the honour of knighthood. Captain Parry was likewise knighted this year, and he dined with the Club on June 18th as Sir Edward Parry. For the last four years he had been stationed in London as Hydrographer to the Admiralty.

Dr. Nathaniel Wallich, another visitor of Danish origin, was a noted botanist, who had been superintendent of the botanic gardens at Calcutta, and in 1828 brought to London large collections of plants which he had gathered in India and Burmah. He was this year elected into the Royal Society.

1830. The Anniversary Meeting in 1830 was held on June 10th, when there were present :

Davies Gilbert, President	
Earl Spencer	Lord Bexley
William Marsden	William Sotheby
Sir Alexander Johnston	John Barrow
William Smith	Thomas Murdoch
Dr. Peter M. Roget	Dr. William G. Maton
William H. Pepys	Joseph Sabine
Charles Wilkins	Thomas Phillips
Captain Basil Hall	Francis Chantrey
Captain Henry Kater	Joseph Smith, Treas.

The President announced that in the course of the month of May Captain Sabine, the Treasurer, had received orders to join his regiment in Ireland at a short notice, but as this happened only three weeks before the annual election

of officers, no serious inconvenience was caused. The President informed the meeting that he had received the Society's books and papers from Captain Sabine, also a draft for the balance of the fund remaining in his hands. The Tavern Bills had not yet been received, but it was agreed that the amount of the contribution to be paid by each member should be £2.

The Tavern Bills were obtained after the Anniversary and it was found that the expenses had amounted to £132 2s., while the cash received from Captain Sabine was £120 14s. 10d., leaving a balance against the Club of £11 7s. 2d. The total attendance at the dinners since the last Anniversary was 338, of which number 222 were members and 116 were visitors.

Since the previous Anniversary the Club had lost by death Major Rennell and the Rev. Stephen Weston. Sir Benjamin Hobhouse owing to sickness and infirmity had resigned his membership. Three vacancies consequently arose. These were filled by the election of John Lewis Guilmard, Richard Penn, and Robert Brown. The first of these new members was elected into the Royal Society in 1806. Richard Penn, on the staff of the Colonial Office, became F.R.S. in 1824, and Robert Brown, the eminent botanist, was elected a Fellow in 1811.

Davies Gilbert was continued President and Joseph Smith already noticed, was chosen Treasurer.

On the 30th November of this year, owing to changes in the staff of the Royal Society, some modification and increase were necessitated in the membership of the Club. Mr. Davies Gilbert then resigned the Presidentship of the Royal Society, and on the same day the Duke of Sussex was elected President in his stead. John William Lubbock became the Society's Treasurer, and Charles Dietrich Eberhard König its Foreign Secretary. These three office-bearers of the Society now became *ex officio* members of the Club.

His Royal Highness Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, was the sixth son of George III. He was elected into the

Royal Society in 1828 and continued President for eight years, during which as long as his health permitted he presided at the meetings of the Council and the Society.

J. W. Lubbock was for fully forty years one of the most respected and influential members of the scientific and professional society of London. Partner in his father's well-established bank, he succeeded him in 1840 as third holder of the baronetcy. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1829, and so much did the Society appreciate his business capacity that it next year elected him Treasurer and Vice-President. But his attainments in science were also considerable, especially in the domain of mathematics and astronomy.

C. D. E. König, born and educated in Germany, served on the staff of the natural history side of the British Museum, and eventually became keeper of the mineralogical department of that institution. He was elected F.R.S. in 1810, and succeeded Thomas Young in the Foreign Secretaryship.

Easter was recognised this year at the Club by omitting the dinner on April 15th. After the Anniversary the attendance continued to be small. It was arranged that after June 17th dinner would be provided for six persons until the end of July, when the Club was to adjourn till the first Thursday in November. In July the largest attendance was four and on the first day of the month the whole company consisted of the President and Treasurer.

Adam Sedgwick, the distinguished Woodwardian Professor of Geology, dined on 21st January for the first time. He had been elected into the Royal Society in 1821. In the full vigour of life and of scientific enthusiasm, he was next month elected President of the Geological Society.

Henry Hallam, who dined not infrequently at the Club, invited as his guest on 1st April Henry Gally Knight, writer on architecture, who had travelled over much of Europe and had visited Egypt and the East, at that time not so accessible as they have now become.

Charles G. B. Daubeny, chemist, geologist, botanist and the active professor of Chemistry at Oxford, dined on May

6th. Four years previously he had published his important treatise on active and extinct Volcanoes.

“Dr. Robinson,” who was invited to the Club on June 3rd by Captain Beaufort, was undoubtedly the Rev. Thomas Romney Robinson, the eminent Irish astronomer, the inventor of the excellent cup-anemometer which bears his name, who became President of the Royal Irish Academy. He was a Fellow and Royal Medallist of the Royal Society. He lived to the great age of ninety, surviving till 1882.

CHAPTER X

PRESIDENTSHIPS OF THE DUKE OF SUSSEX AND MARQUESS OF NORTHAMPTON, 1831-1848

1831. THE Anniversary in the year 1831 took place on June 9th, when twenty-eight members were present, and the President, the Duke of Sussex, took the chair. The Treasurer stated that the expenses since the last General Meeting had been £130 19s. 8d., leaving a balance of £33 7s. 8d. due to the Treasurer. While some portion of the arrears announced at the previous Anniversary had been paid, fresh arrears had accumulated, the total amount now due to the Club being £36. On the motion of Mr. Davies Gilbert it was unanimously agreed that the arrears of certain members, two of whom were deceased, should be cancelled, leaving the amount of £14 as recoverable. To provide a fund for the ensuing year the contribution from each member was fixed at £3.

Four vacancies had to be filled, resulting from the death of Henry Browne and Lord Darnley and the resignation of Charles Babbage and Henry Thomas Colebrooke. There were eleven candidates on the waiting list, and those elected were Sir John Malcolm, Lieut.-Col. Leake, Sir Gore Ouseley, Bart., and John F. Daniell.

It was resolved that in future the Anniversary meeting of the Club should take place on the Thursday after the adjournment of the meetings of the Royal Society.

Notwithstanding the Club's experience of the practical failure of the weekly dinners during the autumn months,

the question was again discussed at this Anniversary, and the following minute on the subject gives the result :—
“ It appearing to be the wish of several members that the Club should continue to hold its weekly meetings without adjournment, pursuant to the 9th rule in the printed list of Regulations, the Treasurer was requested to give the necessary instructions accordingly.”

It was likewise resolved that “ upon any gentleman becoming entitled from his official station in the Royal Society to be a Member of this Club, the Treasurer be instructed to ask him whether it be his intention to take advantage of such privilege and to become permanently a subscribing member.”

A further special General Meeting for the purpose of dispatching the business that was left unfinished at the Anniversary was held on July 7th, when twenty members attended and the President took the chair. The following resolutions were then adopted :

“ 1. That any foreigner who shall be invited to the Club by any of the Members, shall not be required to pay for his dinner.

2. That any Member shall continue to belong to the Club, without being liable to the payment of any annual contribution, if he has been absent on public service from London, or travelling abroad.

3. That no Member shall vote at an election unless he shall have attended three meetings of the Club, subsequently to the last Anniversary.

4. That every newly-elected Member of the Club shall pay the annual contribution to the expense of the Club for the year succeeding his election, in addition to his admission fee of two guineas.

5. That the Treasurer be requested to cause a sufficient number of the Rules of the Club, together with a List of the present Members, to be printed, and to forward a copy of the same to each Member of the Club.”

Consideration was likewise given to the rule of the Club with regard to the introduction of visitors which ran as follows : “ Every Member bringing a visitor shall write his name under his own, to be laid on the table ; and no visitor can be admitted into the room until this regulation shall have been complied with.” “ It appeared that this rule



JOHN G. CHILDREN.

Sec. R.S., 1826.

had ceased to be observed with that strictness with which it had [formerly] been acted upon : and the Treasurer was requested to arrange with the Landlord of the Tavern to have a room into which strangers might be shown, until the Members introducing them had complied with the form prescribed in the Rule ; and respecting the contribution at present collected from visitors, the Club did not deem it expedient to make any alteration."

A few words may be introduced here concerning the new members elected into the Club at the Anniversary.

Sir John Malcolm, K.C.B. (p. 284), had a high reputation as an administrator, diplomatist and soldier in our Indian dominions. Having acquired a knowledge of Persian he was sent again and again on a political mission to the Persian court. He had found time in his busy life to write a "Political History of India," a "History of Persia," and other works. He was for four years Governor of Bombay. On his return to England he in 1831 went into Parliament as member for Launceston. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1829.

Lieut.-Colonel William Martin Leake has been already referred to (p. 261) as a visitor to the Club, and as one of the main authorities for the identification of classical sites in Greece and Asia Minor. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1815. He was proposed as a member of the Club by Davies Gilbert and seconded by Chantrey.

Sir Gore Ouseley, Bart., has already been referred to as one of the visitors in 1818. His election into the Royal Society took place in 1817.

John Frederic Daniell, Professor of Chemistry at King's College, London, and an able physicist, became F.R.S. in 1814 and received the Copley Medal in 1837. To him we are indebted for the constant battery that bears his name, and other useful inventions.

The attendance fluctuated this year more than was usual. In the twelve months there were in all seven days when no one appeared ; and this falling-off was not confined to the autumn, for it occurred in the middle of January, in

March and April, and in October. In July, August and September an effort seems to have been made with some success to secure an attendance, though no one came on August 11th. Sir Robert Inglis was alone on 1st September, and Sir John Stanley had no companion on July 21st.

The visitors this year included Julien-Ursin Niemcewicz, Polish patriot, statesman, historian, poet, and dramatist, who in his youth joined the army, fought under Kosciusko, and was wounded and taken prisoner by the Russians. In later years he had been President of the Society of Sciences at Warsaw. He resided for a short time in England this year, and finally settled in Paris, where he died in 1841. At the time of his visit to the Club he was seventy-four years of age.

The "Mr. Webster" who dined with the Club on January 20th was not improbably Thomas Webster, architect and geologist, who, it is said, was mainly concerned in designing the building of the Royal Institution in Albemarle Street, including the theatre, which was regarded by Faraday as "almost perfect as a lecture room." He did some excellent original work as a geologist, was for eight years Secretary of the Geological Society, and in 1841 became the first Professor of Geology in the University of London. He was an early scientific friend of Murchison, who has related of him that "born in the Shetland Isles, and there receiving a good education, he had never seen in that region a tree higher than a bush; so that in coming southwards, as he told me, he never could forget the astonishment and admiration he felt, when on reaching the valley of Berriedale on the borders of Sutherland, he for the first time saw true forest trees. Before these he kneeled down, as true a worshipper as Linnaeus, when he first beheld in England the yellow blossom of our common furze."¹

On 28th April Dr. Roget introduced to the Club "Professor Panizzi." This eminent man was born in Modena, educated at Parma, and had taken up the calling of an

¹ *Life of Murchison*, vol. i. p. 123.

advocate in his native country. Accused of conspiring against the government he fled from Italy in 1822, and was in absence sentenced to death. He came to England and with the assistance of Roscoe and Brougham he eventually this year was appointed assistant-librarian in the British Museum, where he became successively chief Keeper of printed books and Chief Librarian. He retired in 1866, and his great services to the Museum were recognised by his being created a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath. He lived till 1879, reaching the age of eighty-two.

John James Audubon, the great American lover and painter of birds, dined on May 5th. The first volume of his "Birds of America" had appeared a few months before, and met with the most enthusiastic praise. The author was received with warm welcome by the scientific societies of this country and the continent. As the successive volumes of this work and of the subsequent "Ornithological Biography" appeared, he was hailed as not only an inimitable artist in the delineation of bird-forms, but a writer of uncommon skill and charm, whose descriptions were as vivid as his drawings. He had been admitted a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1830.

1832. In 1832 the Anniversary meeting took place on June 28th and was attended by twenty-four members, the Duke of Sussex, President, in the chair. The Treasurer, in submitting the account for the twelve months since the last annual General Meeting, stated that the tavern bills had come to £156 11s. 6d.,¹ and there was a balance due by the Club of £46 6s. It was resolved that the contribution for the ensuing year should be four Pounds, a payment which only once before (in 1818) had been levied.

¹ The sudden reduction of the tavern bills in 1803 to less than half of their amount was soon after followed by a continued rise until in nine years they were as high as they had been before that reduction. After 1811 they went up rapidly till in six years they were more than five times what they were in 1803. In 1832 they reached their highest point, which was six times what the cost had been in 1803. Thereafter the amount oscillated, but was seldom below £100 a year.

There were no vacancies caused by death or by non-attendance, but one arose from the resignation of Sir Everard Home. This active member was now seventy-six years of age, and on account of his "increasing infirmities" desired to withdraw from the Club. He died later in the year. As the result of the ballot for the one vacancy Dr. William Babington was elected. He has been already mentioned as a visitor (p. 289). His fondness for mineralogy led him to take much interest in the foundation of the Geological Society of which the first beginnings took place in his house. He became its President in 1822. He had been elected into the Royal Society in 1805. He was now seventy-six years of age, and he died in the following year.

At the Anniversary the following motions were put and carried :

" That members of the Council [of the Royal Society] upon paying the subscription for the current year, shall have the right of dining at the Club as visitors without invitation, upon the usual terms, during the time for which they may be members of Council.

" That the resolution of last year, restricting the right of voting at the annual meetings of the Club, to those Members who shall have attended the Club three times at least, during the current year, be rescinded."

The disposition of the members to enjoy a recess at Easter and at Whitsun week, and to take a still longer holiday in the late summer and autumn, continued to grow in force. The dinners were still provided during these different seasons, but the Treasurer evidently thought the insertion of some explanation of the non-attendance to be necessary in his register. Hence at Easter time he wrote on the margin of the page " Vacation," and in June, when Robert Brown was the sole diner, " Whitsun Week " is recorded. Habits had changed since the early days of the Club, when no general exodus from London took place at these times, and when the dinners continued to be well attended even in the autumn. It would seem that there had arisen among the members an inclination to look on the Anniversary Meeting as marking the end of the " season " of Club dinners and business. And this impression was probably strength-

ened when the date of the Anniversary of the Club was fixed to be held a week immediately after the last sitting of the Royal Society before its long vacation. The scant attendance which used not to set in until August now affected July, and in some years even June. This year, after the full meeting at the Anniversary on 28th June, nobody appeared at the next dinner on July 5th, five came on the 12th, two on the 19th, and two on the 26th. Thereafter for five weeks the dinners were no doubt duly cooked, but no member or guest came to partake of them. On September 6th the aged Dr. Babington, who had been elected a member at the Anniversary, came to the "Crown and Anchor," where he was sure there would be a Club dinner. He was probably astonished to find no company except Dr. Charles Burney, who had also strayed into the deserted place of meeting. After this unusual irruption the tranquil quiet of the rooms returned for five weeks longer. Dr. Burney, indeed, tried it once more, but he found himself alone this time, and did not renew the experience. The quietude went on through October and even into November.

An eminent German, August Wilhelm von Schlegel, was invited by the President on March 1st. Famous in his day as a literary critic and translator, he was made in 1818 Professor of Literature at the University of Bonn, and held this post to the end of his life. He was author of the best translation of Shakespeare into German, which fostered an appreciation of the great dramatist that has culminated in the German belief that the poet was or at least ought to have been a German. Other foreign visitors during the course of the year were the Marchese Spineto, M. de Lottre, M. Ausaux and Mr. Audubon.

Among the native guests the geologists were conspicuous. Murchison dined several times in the first half of the year. Sedgwick, Buckland, Daubeny and Greenough were likewise also invited.

William Whewell dined twice this spring. After a remarkably brilliant time at Trinity College he was elected

a Fellow of the College in 1817, and devoted himself for a time to mathematical and physical studies. Elected F.R.S. in 1820, he became Professor of Mineralogy at Cambridge in 1828, took an active interest in the young Geological Society and became its President in 1837. He had a broad grasp of the whole range of scientific research which was admirably displayed in his "History of the Inductive Sciences." In 1841 he became Master of Trinity, and in that position was able to render important service to the College and to the University.

Another visitor appeared several times who was destined to take a prominent part in the history of the Club—Captain (afterwards Admiral) William Henry Smyth. After seeing active service in the Navy in Eastern waters he was employed in charting the coasts of Sicily and the adjacent shores of Italy and Africa. He became the highest authority on the hydrography of the Mediterranean. When he retired from the public service he proved an active promoter of science in London and an efficient member of the scientific societies which he joined. He had become F.R.S. in 1826. Joining the Club in 1835, he was eventually elected its Treasurer, and was the first author to give a sketch of its history (*antea*, p. 6).

"Mr. Burchell," twice a visitor this year, may with little hesitation be regarded as the exploring naturalist who did so much good work in collecting botanical and zoological specimens in South Africa. His name is perpetuated by being attached to one of the varieties of the Zebra.

Sir David Barry, an army surgeon in the Peninsular War who wrote on physiological subjects, dined with the Club on May 31st. He had been elected into the Royal Society on April 5th.

The "Mr. Sheepshanks" who was invited by J. W. Lubbock for the 13th December was doubtless the astronomer of that name, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Secretary of the Royal Astronomical Society, who had become F.R.S. two years before.

"Professor Hamilton," invited by J. G. Children on March 22, may be conjectured to have been William Rowan Hamilton, the pre-eminent Irish mathematician who in 1827 was appointed Professor of Astronomy at the Dublin University and afterwards became Astronomer Royal for Ireland. The Royal Society elected him a Fellow in 1813 and awarded him a Royal Medal in 1835. He was knighted in 1835 and chosen President of the Royal Irish Academy in 1837. His work on Quaternions gave him a high place in the history of mathematical progress.

1833. In the year 1833 the Anniversary was held on July 4th and was attended by twenty-one members, the Duke of Sussex presiding. In ordinary circumstances it would have taken place on June 27th, but it was postponed on account of the meeting of the British Association at Cambridge on that date.

From the Treasurer's statement the Tavern and other expenses during the past year amounted to £132 19s. 6d., leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands of £6 14s. 6d. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at three pounds. The Duke of Sussex, President, had been unable owing to the state of his health to attend any of the meetings since the previous Anniversary.

Sir John Herschel and Captain Basil Hall, intending to live abroad for some time, were released from payment of the annual contribution during their absence. The case of these two members led to a reconsideration of the regulation on the subject of absence abroad. "As a result of discussion the Rule was rescinded which provided that "any Member who shall be absent from London on public service or travelling abroad, shall continue to belong to the Club without being liable to the payment of any contribution." In place of it the following new Rule was adopted: "Any Member declaring his intention of going abroad shall be considered as a supernumerary member during his absence, without paying his annual contribution; but his vacancy shall be filled up, and on his return he shall be admitted to the meetings of the

Club on the usual terms, and be admitted as a regular member, on the first vacancy, on his signifying a wish to that effect."

The death was announced of Dr. Babington who had so recently become a member, also that of Sir John Malcolm. On a ballot for the filling of the two vacancies, George Dollond and Roderick Impey Murchison were elected. Dollond became F.R.S. in 1819 and Murchison in 1826. These two new members have been already briefly alluded to (pp. 244, 284).

The question of the autumn meetings came up once more, as it could hardly fail to do, after the experience of the previous year. It was proposed by an old member, Mr. Barrow, who had once been a strong supporter of these meetings, and seconded by William Marsden, now the Father of the Club, "That the weekly meetings of the Club be suspended during the present vacation until the 21st November next, the day on which the Royal Society will resume its sittings; and in lieu thereof a dinner shall be provided on the first Thursday in each month; that is to say, on the 1st August, 5th September, 3rd October and 7th November at six o'clock."

The visitors this year included "Mr. Hopkins," probably the famous mathematical coach at Cambridge; Captain Chesney, possibly the same who first showed that the Red Sea and Mediterranean could be connected by a navigable canal; Mr. Kirby and Mr. Spence, the joint authors of the excellent "Introduction to Entomology," who were appropriately invited by Mr. Children to the same dinner; Mr. Swainson, probably the well-known naturalist and collector who contributed largely to Lardner's "Cyclopedia" and Jardine's "Naturalist's Library"; Sir James Graham, the active member of Parliament in the first half of last century; and a number of visitors who had previously been guests—Buckland, Panizzi, Whewell, Daubeny, Z. Macaulay, and others.

1834. At the Anniversary held on July 3, 1834, when twenty-three members were present, the chair was taken

by Davies Gilbert. The date of the meeting had again been changed from the proper day to the Thursday of the week following; this time the postponement was due to the musical Festival in Westminster having been fixed for the 26th of June.

The tavern bills since the previous Anniversary were stated to have amounted to £116 11s. 8d., leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands of £44 3s. 4d. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at two pounds.

By the death of William Sotheby and the resignation of Sir Gilbert Blane and Joseph Sabine three vacancies were created. In addition to these, two more arose from the transference of Sir John Herschel and Captain Basil Hall to the Supernumerary List in accordance with the rule passed at the last Anniversary. Captain Sabine, being still absent from England on public duty, was likewise put on the same List, but as he was an *ex officio* member his transference did not cause a vacancy in the ordinary membership. On a ballot being taken Sir Martin Archer Shee, George Rennie, Lord Oxmantown, Robert Ferguson, and John George Shaw-Lefevre were declared to be duly elected.

The arrangement made in the previous year in regard to meetings during the vacation was ordered to be continued for this year. But it had met with little encouragement. The August dinner was attended by four members. In September and October nobody appeared.

Of the new members added to the Club at this election it may be briefly stated that Sir Martin Shee was the President of the Royal Academy, and had been made a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1831; George Rennie, one of the famous family of engineers, and himself an engineer of repute, was a brother and partner of Sir John Rennie long a member of the Club, and was elected F.R.S. in 1822; Lord Oxmantown, eldest son of the Earl of Rosse, succeeded to the earldom in 1841 and became famous for his success in the construction of reflecting telescopes and especially for the erection of the gigantic instrument on his

estate at Parsonstown in Ireland, wherewith he made some important observations among the nebulae; Robert Ferguson, M.P., was elected into the Royal Society as far back as 1805; John G. Shaw-Lefevre, an able barrister, at this time in the Colonial office, formed one of the commission that founded the colony of Australia, was elected into the Royal Society in 1820, afterwards became K.C.B. and lived till 1879.

The visitors this year included few scientific men of note. Most illustrious of them was John Dalton, whose atomic theory, promulgated thirty years before, had marked one of the most important advances in modern chemistry. He was now nearing seventy years of age, and had long been hailed by the scientific world as one of its brightest lights.¹ He dined on May 8th on the invitation of W. T. Brande. He had been a Fellow of the Royal Society since 1822 and his name stands at the head of the long list of recipients of the Society's Royal Medals. Professor Cumming was probably the Professor of Chemistry at Cambridge, and Fellow of Trinity College.

"Professor Wilson" dined with the Club on June 5th. The most widely known professor of this name at the time was the poet, athlete and occupant of the chair of Moral Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, best remembered by his nom-de-plume of "Christopher North," and as the brilliant editor of *Blackwood's Magazine*. Captain James Clark Ross was a worthy representative of the Navy who dined now as a visitor, but in course of time was elected a member of the Club. He had already made a series of important Arctic voyages, and was yet to do pioneer work in the Antarctic regions also. John Delavel, Earl of Tyrconnel, and Lord Teignmouth also dined with the Club. The former was elected into the Royal Society this year. His title became extinct in 1853.

¹ Sir Henry Holland, referring to Dalton's early years, records that he "well knew that philosopher in his rude laboratory of broken bottles and other uncouth apparatus at Manchester—an individuality in himself, apart from the Quaker garb he wore." *Recollections*, p. 212.

1835. The Anniversary Meeting, held on June 25th 1835, was attended by the following members :

John W. Lubbock, Chairman	
Earl of Macclesfield	Sir John T. Stanley
Sir Alexander Johnston	William Marsden
Dr. Roget	Sir John Barrow
Robert Ferguson	Sir Robert H. Inglis
Thomas Phillips	John G. Children
Dr. Burney	Thomas Murdoch
John L. Guillemard	William H. Pepys
Sir Charles Wilkins	George Rennie
Sir Martin A. Shee	Robert Brown
Francis Baily	Roderick I. Murchison
Joseph Smith, Treasurer	

The Treasurer announced that the expenses for the past year had amounted to £99 11s. 8d., and that there remained in his hands a balance of £42 1s. 8d. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at two pounds. The attendance since the last Anniversary had been 276, composed of 160 members and 116 visitors. It was made known that the Club had lost by death since last Anniversary Earl Spencer, Dr. Maton, William Smith and Captain Kater. Sir Gore Ouseley and Lister Parker resigned their membership. Captain Kater being an *ex officio* member the number of vacancies was five. These were filled by ballot and the following gentlemen were declared to be duly elected : William Henry Smyth, Rev. Dr. Philip Jennings, Rev. Baden Powell, Sir John Rennie and Dr. Herbert Mayo.

It was agreed again on the motion of Sir John Barrow that the same arrangement as that of last year should be made for the meetings in the autumn months.

Most of the new members of the Club have appeared as visitors in the records of previous years. Admiral W. H. Smyth was still in the full vigour of his powers, which, when he settled in London, he devoted to the interests of science and of the various societies with which he was connected. He had been F.R.S. since 1826. Rev. Dr. Philip Jennings was elected F.R.S. in 1821. Rev. Baden Powell, to whom a brief reference was made on p. 281, was elected into the

Royal Society in 1824. Sir John Rennie was the son of John Rennie, the eminent engineer (p. 230). He too was an engineer and continued his father's undertakings, particularly the London Bridge and Plymouth breakwater. For these services he had been knighted in 1831. He became F.R.S. in 1823. Herbert Mayo was a doctor of medicine in London, elected into the Royal Society in 1828.

The Easter vacation was now recognised in the weekly register, but dinner was still provided for each of the two Thursdays at that season. This year two members appeared at one of these dinners, and nobody came to the other. It may be remarked that the attendance at the meetings between the Anniversary of 1834 and that of 1835 was one of the smallest in the history of the Club up to that time. Again and again there were days when no one appeared, although dinner had been duly provided. This was more especially striking in the first half of the financial year. In the second half from July to the end of December only 29 members and 11 visitors attended, and the total attendance for the whole year amounted to no more than 276, composed of 131 members and 116 visitors. The large proportionate number of guests is likewise remarkable. At six dinners they were more numerous than the hosts, and at seven the numbers were equal.

Some men who attained an eminent scientific reputation in later years were visitors to the Club for the first time this year. Richard Owen dined on January 15th, on the invitation of George Dollond, and again on 12th February as the guest of Colonel Leake. He was then only thirty-one years of age, but he had already made his mark as an able comparative anatomist. His memoir on the Pearly Nautilus which appeared in 1832 led to his election into the Royal Society in 1834. His appointment as Assistant Conservator of the Hunterian Museum had put him in a favourable position by supplying him with excellent material for the prosecution of the line of research which he had selected as his life-work. Professor Wheatstone, who dined on 18th June, when Henry Hallam was chairman, had two years

before been appointed to the chair of Experimental Physics at King's College, London, and he was in the following January elected into the Royal Society, but he had not yet entered upon those electrical investigations by which he so greatly improved telegraphy and with which his name is more especially associated. Professor Phillips who was the guest of Dr. Roget on May 28th was probably John Phillips, the nephew of William Smith, the Father of Stratigraphical Geology. At this time he was Keeper of the York Museum. For more than a quarter of a century as Assistant Secretary of the British Association, he was one of the best known and most genial of the men of science of his time. He had been elected into the Royal Society in 1834. He did good service to the advance of his favourite science by his writings and by his teaching, first at Trinity College, Dublin, and afterwards as occupant of the Chair of Geology in the University of Oxford. "Professor Christie" may be assumed to have been Samuel Hunter Christie, who was second wrangler in 1805 and was appointed professor of mathematics at Woolwich Academy. He became F.R.S. in 1826.

Captain Beaufort, the able hydrographer of the Admiralty, again invited to the Club on 14th May Dr. Robinson of Trinity College, Dublin, who, besides being an eminent astronomer, was well versed in the meteorological studies which naval men know so well how to appreciate.

Among the visitors from former years who now appeared again was Sir John Franklin, who had been knighted in 1829. He had been employed for some years in command of the *Rainbow* frigate on the coast of Greece. He dined on January 29th and December 10th as the guest of John L. Guillemand. Dr. Whewell also came again on March 19th on the invitation of Murchison, who likewise had Sir John Rennie as his guest.

Among the foreign visitors were Signor Orsi, M. Caillaud, Professor von Raumer, Professor Plücker, and Count Revedin.

1836. In the year 1836 the Anniversary, held on 23rd June, was attended by twenty-eight members, Mr. Davies Gilbert being in the chair.

The Treasurer's statement showed that the tavern bills and small expenses had amounted to £113 10s. 4d. and that a balance of £33 1s. 4d. remained in the Treasurer's hands. The contribution to be demanded from each member was fixed at two pounds. No vacancies for non-attendance were declared; the only vacancy which had to be filled this year was that caused by the death of Sir Charles Wilkins. On a ballot Lord Teignmouth was declared to be duly elected.

Sir John Barrow continued to be as prominent as ever in his efforts to reduce the number of the autumn meetings. He brought forward again and carried his motion that those meetings should be confined to the first Thursday in the months of July, August, September, October and November.

The meeting, on the proposal of the Treasurer, unanimously agreed to rescind the resolution relating to members of the Council of the Royal Society which had been adopted at the Anniversary in 1832 (p. 308), but had never been put into operation.

It was at this meeting that the Treasurer informed the members that the reports of the various meetings and transactions of the Club from 1818 to 1828 existed only on separate slips of paper and had never been entered into the books kept for the purpose as had been the practice before and since that interval. He proposed and the meeting agreed that he should have the contents of these papers fairly transcribed into the books, as has already (p. 262) been mentioned.

The new member, Lord Teignmouth, the second holder of the Barony, succeeded to the title in 1834. His father, John Shore, passed many years of his life in India, where he filled a succession of important public offices, ending in his being appointed Governor-General, and raised to the peerage with the title of Baron Teignmouth. The new member of the Club, who had been elected into the Royal Society in 1834, entered Parliament as representative of Marylebone.

As in previous years the existence of the Easter holidays was recognised in the register, but dinner was provided for both weeks. The Treasurer came with a guest to the first dinner, nobody attended the second. In the autumn months the numbers were larger than usual. On July 7th the company numbered ten, in September four, in October five, and in November two. The dinner in August, however, was made a special banquet, which the Treasurer has chronicled as follows: "Sir John Franklin having been appointed Governor of Van Diemen's Land, and being about to embark to proceed thither, I invited him to dine with the Club on 4th August, which he accepted; and I communicated with such members as I believed to be in London at this advanced period of the season, a party of thirty-three sat down to dinner, being the greatest number of persons ever collected together at one sitting of the Club." Among the guests on this occasion were Mr. Stevenson, the Envoy Extraordinary from the United States; Mr. Duer, member of the American Legislature; Professor Nielsen, from one of the Swedish Universities; Dr. Mohl, Professor of Astronomy at Utrecht; Professor von Raumer of Berlin, Dr. Hare from Philadelphia, Professor Rigaux, Baron Charles Dupin, and Sir William Burnett, Physician-general of the Navy.

A number of foreign visitors appear on the dinner lists of this year. One of the most interesting was the Russian Admiral Tchitchagof. Educated in England he preserved through life an enthusiastic admiration for this country, the public expression of which feeling led to his being more than once put in prison by Emperor Paul I. He was created Admiral and Minister of Marine by Alexander I., and rendered important military services to Russia under that monarch, who gave him unlimited leave to travel abroad wherever and as long as he pleased. When subsequently the Emperor Nicholas ordered all Russians to return to their native country on pain of confiscation of their goods, it never occurred to the admiral that his position could be affected by this ukase, but he soon heard that

his property had been confiscated and his salary stopped. Cut to the heart by this cruel treatment he had himself naturalised in England as the home of true liberty. He subsequently lived in France, where he died in 1849. He wrote his *Memoirs*, which are full of graphic details about the Emperor Paul.

On May 19th two notable Frenchmen dined with the Club—Alexandre Brongniart, invited by Murchison, and Henri Milne-Edwards, the guest of Roget. The former visitor has already come before us (p. 215). Henri Milne-Edwards, of English parentage, became one of the most eminent of French naturalists. At the time of his visit to London he was thirty-six, and taught natural history at the College of Henry IV. with such success that in 1838 he was elected into the Academy of Sciences at Paris, and a few years later he entered on a long professional career, during which he rendered good service to the sciences of comparative zoology and physiology, both by his prelections and by the books and papers that came from his pen. In 1848 he was chosen as one of the Foreign Members of the Royal Society.

The Professor von Raumer, invited both to the July and August dinner, was probably the German historian who published this year two octavo volumes on "Elizabeth and Mary Stuart," based on his study of documents in the British Museum, and who between 1836 and 1841 gave forth three volumes on "England."

Lieutenant Wilkes, of the United States navy, dined on November 17th as guest of Francis Baily. Two years later he was put in command of a great exploring expedition, fitted out by the American navy for the purpose of visiting the coasts of South America and the western coast of North America, the island groups of the Pacific Ocean, and a wide expanse of the Antarctic regions. This famous voyage extended over four years, and the official "Narrative" of its doings fills six volumes, which were published in 1845. On his return Wilkes was promoted commander in 1843, captain in 1855, and admiral in 1866. Perhaps the most



SIR JOHN BARROW, BART., F.R.S., 1805.

sensational event in his life was when, in command of the *San Jacinto*, on 8th November 1861, he intercepted the British mail-steamer *Trent* on the high seas and forcibly removed from it the Confederate Commissioners Mason and Slidell on their way to Europe. For this act he received the thanks of Congress, but its illegality was admitted by the Federal Government, and the Commissioners were released.

Among the home-visitors to the Club this year few call for special notice. Captain Back, introduced by Colonel Leake, was one of the early navigators of the Arctic seas (p. 277). He became a member of the Club in 1850. Davies Gilbert invited his parliamentary friend, Sir William Molesworth, the well-known politician in the time of Lord Aberdeen and Lord Palmerston, whose services to the Colonies, when he was Colonial Secretary, entitled him to a place in the history of this country, and who yet found time and money to edit and publish in sixteen volumes an edition of the complete works of Hobbes. The second Marquess of Breadalbane, who dined on March 17th, was elected into the Royal Society in 1834. A great Highland chieftain, handsome in body and cultivated in mind, he resided on and improved his vast estates and was beloved by his tenantry. He interested himself in mineralogy in order that he might develop any indications of workable minerals in his mountainous domain, and for many years he continued to work the mines at Tyndrum with little or no profit, but as a patriotic enterprise. He left no children, and the English titles of his family became extinct with his death in 1862. John Murray, junior, son of Byron's publisher, dined for the first time on April 14th. Lord Sandon and Lord Burlington were also guests.

The visitors of former years who reappeared in 1836 included Buckland, Conybeare, Whewell, Brisbane, Wheatstone, Sir John Franklin, and Baron Dupin.

1837. At the Anniversary meeting on June 22nd 1837 twenty-five members were present, and Charles Hatchett presided. The tavern bills for the year since the last

annual General Meeting were announced to have amounted to £116 18s. 7d., leaving a balance of £8 4s. 9d. in the Treasurer's hands. The contribution from each member for the ensuing year was fixed at two pounds. Two vacancies were caused by the omission of the names of two members on account of non-attendance. A third arose from death, as recorded in the following paragraph of the Minutes :

" Since the last Anniversary the Club has had the misfortune to lose one of its most respected members, Mr. Marsden, who, having been elected in the year 1787, was in the fiftieth year of his membership, and was the Father of the Club. Mr. Marsden was chosen Treasurer in 1788 and continued to fulfil the duties of the office till the year 1804, a period of sixteen years ; when the pressure of public business obliged him to resign a trust which he had executed with the greatest credit to himself, and to the entire satisfaction of the Club."

The three vacancies were filled by ballot, and the candidates declared to be duly elected were Dr. Thomas Mayo, the Earl of Burlington, and Professor Christie.

Sir John Barrow's usual motion about the restriction of the autumn meetings was again made by him and adopted by the meeting.

The Treasurer reported that " the deficient entries of Club meetings from 1818 to 1828 mentioned by him at the previous Anniversary had been copied into books, without further expense to the Club than the cost of the said books." He modestly refrained from saying that this laborious task had been performed from beginning to end with his own hand.

The irregular entry of visitors to the dinners, which was so difficult to check in the early days of the Club, still from time to time made it necessary to take such steps as are recorded in the following paragraph of the Minutes of this meeting : " Much inconvenience having been experienced from the influx of visitors at the dinners of the Club without personal introduction by members, as required by the Thirteenth Rule, the Treasurer was particularly requested to insist upon the strict observance of this rule by the

Landlord of the Tavern, agreeably to the Minute entered in the proceedings of the Club on the 7th July 1831."

Of the new members added to the Club at this Anniversary Thomas Mayo was a prominent London physician who became President of the Royal College of Physicians and had been elected into the Royal Society in 1835. The Earl of Burlington, who had succeeded to the title in 1834, became in 1858 seventh Duke of Devonshire. As the enlightened Chancellor of Cambridge University and a munificent supporter of everything that could advance the cause of science and industry, he lived till 1891, when he had reached his eighty-third year. Samuel Hunter Christie, the able mathematical professor at the Woolwich Military Academy, was elected into the Royal Society in 1826. An adept in magnetic science, he was of much service to the Admiralty in regard to the compasses of the Navy.

The foreign visitors this year, besides a few who had previously been present, included Professor Alexander Dallas Bache, grandson of Benjamin Franklin, whose bent towards physical research he inherited. He was a graduate of West Point, and at the early age of two-and-twenty became Professor of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry in the University of Pennsylvania. For the last quarter of a century of his life he most ably filled the responsible office of Superintendent of the Coast Survey till his death in 1867. Other foreign visitors were Dr. G. Forchhammer, the Danish chemist and geologist; Mr. Rush, late ambassador from the United States; the Prince de Musignano, nephew of Napoleon, and M. Lecambre.

The British visitors had mostly been guests in previous years. Among the new-comers were Dr. William Smith, whom one would like to be able to identify with the venerated Father of Stratigraphical Geology, the value of his work being by this time fully recognised by the geologists, who in 1831 awarded him their highest honour, the Wollaston Medal, and by the Government of the day, which conferred on him a Civil List pension; Dr. Boase, who after practising as a physician in Penzance had settled in London and was

this year admitted into the Royal Society; and Thomas Bell, Professor of Zoology at King's College, London, who had become F.R.S. in 1828, was in 1848 elected one of the Society's Secretaries, and a few years later was chosen President of the Linnean Society.

The visitors from previous years included Sir Edward Parry, Captain James Ross, W. D. Conybeare, Sir Thomas M. Brisbane, Sir C. Wheatstone, J. E. Gray, and A. Ure.

1838. The Anniversary in 1838, held on July 5th, was attended by sixteen members, Sir John T. Stanley being chairman. This meeting, which normally should have taken place on June 28th, had been postponed for a week, as on that day the Coronation of Queen Victoria was celebrated.

The working expenses of the year just concluded were reported to have amounted to £113 8s. 6d., leaving a balance of £3 os. 3d. in the Treasurer's hands. The contribution for the year was fixed at two pounds.

No vacancy had occurred from death or from non-attendance, but Lord Macclesfield wrote that he was compelled by increasing infirmities to resign his place in the Club, which he did with deep regret, stating at the same time "in strong terms the pleasure he had experienced in his intercourse with the Members upon every occasion of meeting them." One vacancy was thus caused, which on a show of hands was at once filled by the re-election of Sir John F. W. Herschel, now returned laden with the splendid fruits of his six memorable years spent in astronomical observation at the Cape of Good Hope.

The arrangement for monthly dinners during the vacation, which had been in operation for some years, was, on the motion of Thomas Murdoch, continued.

The Duke of Sussex was again unanimously re-elected President of the Club, and Mr. Joseph Smith, Treasurer. But the Duke for five years had been unable to attend any of the meetings of the Club owing to the state of his health, and he felt compelled this year to resign the Presidentship of the Royal Society, which carried with it the Chairmanship of the Club. He retired on the following St. Andrew's

Day. On the same day Spencer Joshua Alwyne Compton, second Marquess of Northampton, was elected President of the Society. In accordance with the rules of the Club he was asked whether he wished to become "a permanently subscribing member." He at once agreed, paid his subscription, and took the chair at the dinner on December 13th.

The Marquess of Northampton, who was President of the Royal Society for ten years, was a Master of Arts of Trinity College, Cambridge, and had been for eight years in the House of Commons as Lord Compton. He succeeded to the marquise in 1828. He specially cultivated geology and mineralogy, and took much interest in the young Geological Society, of which he was chosen one of its early Presidents. He wrote on the geology of Mull, an island with which he was connected through his wife, daughter of a Highland laird. He made large collections of fossils and minerals. He gave receptions at his London house, where his Marchioness was famed as an accomplished and gracious hostess.

The monthly dinners in autumn were this year fairly well supported. The first Thursday in July, having been taken for the date of the Anniversary, a larger attendance than usual was assured. At the August dinner there were five present, in that of September eleven, in that of October seventeen, and in that of November seventeen.

A few of the guests this year may be briefly noticed. Dr. Neil Arnott, who this year was elected into the Royal Society, had graduated in medicine and entered the East India Company's service, in which he made two voyages to China. He settled as a physician in London in 1811, and acquired a large practice. He took much interest in physics, especially in relation to medicine, and had an original inventive talent, as he showed in his "water-bed," as well as broad views on the subject of warming and ventilating, which he discussed in a separate work. He was a liberal benefactor to higher education. William Macgillivray, who was twice the guest of Mr. Children, after graduating in

Arts at Aberdeen University, became assistant to Robert Jameson at Edinburgh and also Conservator of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons there. He was a gifted naturalist, and found full scope for his abilities when he was appointed Professor of Natural History at Aberdeen. His "History of British Birds" is full of original observations, and his "Natural History of Deeside," published after his death, was a valuable addition to the literature of Scottish zoology.

Henry Joseph Monck Mason, invited by Gilbert on 26th April, was an Irish barrister and man of letters who did good service to education in Ireland. The "Professor Forbes" who dined on May 31st was doubtless James David Forbes, the brilliant young Professor of Natural Philosophy at the University of Edinburgh, who was a few years later to take a prominent place in the investigation of the glaciers of the Alps and of Norway, and who spent his last years in the dignified post of Principal of the University of St. Andrews. Henry Thomas De la Beche, who dined as the guest of Colonel Colby on June 14th, has been already referred to (p. 265) as one of the band of eminent men who in this country placed geology on secure foundations as an observational science. The Sir Henry Ellis who was invited to the Club by Sir John Barrow on October 4th may have been the Principal Librarian of the British Museum, who had retired from that office two years before. Another Henry Ellis was a diplomatist who formed one of Earl Amherst's staff in the Embassy to China in 1816 and published the official account of the mission, and who was still so vigorous as to be sent four years after this time as special Envoy to Brazil. Professor Rigaud, who dined with the Club three times in the earlier half of the year, may be presumed to have been the Savilian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford, who was now in his sixty-fourth year. He died in 1839.

1839. The Anniversary of the Club on June 27th 1839 was attended by nineteen members, with Sir John Barrow in the chair. The tavern bills and other outlays were reported to amount to £99 12s. 4d., with a balance of

£8 12s. 1d. due to the Treasurer. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at two pounds. No vacancies were announced arising either from death or from non-attendance.

The Treasurer was authorised to reprint the Rules and List of Members of the Club, as eight years had elapsed since the last edition was issued.

The usual arrangement of monthly dinners between June and November was continued. The Marquess of Northampton was formally re-elected President of the Club, and Mr. Joseph Smith was re-elected Treasurer for the ensuing year.

One of the memorable dinners of the year took place on 17th January, when Henry Hallam took the chair, and there were present R. I. Murchison, with his guest Major Clerke, Robert Brown introducing Sir William Hooker, Captain Smyth with Sir William's son as his guest, Herbert Mayo and the Treasurer. Sir William Hooker, after holding for some years the Professorship of Botany in Glasgow University, was appointed in 1841 Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew, which he greatly extended and improved. His son Joseph Dalton Hooker received a medical education at the University of Glasgow and took his degree of M.D. there this year. He was at this time a young man of two-and-twenty with a brilliant life before him. A few months after this meeting he started his career by sailing under Captain James Clark Ross in the famous expedition to the Antarctic regions.

Captain Ross was also invited to the Club in the midst of his preparations for this notable Antarctic voyage. He dined twice with the Philosophers before he sailed from England in October.

Viscount Cole, who dined on April 18th as the guest of Murchison, is best remembered as Lord Enniskillen, and in science as one of the most skilful and successful collectors of fossil fishes. He amassed a fine collection of specimens and knew them all so well that in his later years, when his sight completely failed, he could still pick out by the mere

touch any specimen which he wished to submit to his equally enthusiastic friend and coadjutor Sir Philip Egerton, who was also a good ichthyologist as well as the owner of a noble collection of fossil fishes. Lord Enniskillen's tall figure and commanding presence were familiar at the meetings of the Geological Society and at the annual gatherings of the British Association.

1840. At the Anniversary meeting on 25th June 1840 there were present :

The Marquess of Northampton, President

Sir Alexander Johnston	Lord Stanley
J. W. Lubbock	Sir John Barrow
Robert Brown	Thomas Murdoch
John F. Daniell	Rev. Baden Powell
Thomas Phillips	John L. Guillemand
Sir Robert H. Inglis	William H. Pepys
Revd. Dr. Jennings	Samuel H. Christie
Dr. Mayo	Sir John Rennie
George Dollond	Richard Penn

Joseph Smith, Treasurer

The expenses for the past year amounted to £96 4s. 7d. and there remained in the Treasurer's hands a balance of £13 19s. 5d. The annual subscription was fixed to be £2.

The attendance of members at the weekly meetings still continued considerably lower than in earlier years. Since the Anniversary of the previous year the total number of persons who dined at the Club was 327, of whom 250 were members and 77 visitors.

The death of Davies Gilbert, former President of the Society and of the Club, was announced. His position in the Club being that of an *ex officio* member, no vacancy arose from his decease, nor was any member retired on account of non-attendance. Major Sabine having now again become resident in England, his name was ordered to be placed on the *ex officio* list. Captain W. H. Smyth having removed to South Wales, and being thus prevented from attending the meetings of the Club, requested that his name might be put on the Supplemental List. This request being agreed

to, a vacancy was thereby created. Professor Christie, one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society, and Professor Daniell, Foreign Secretary of the Society, having expressed their willingness to withdraw from the list of balloted members and enter the *ex officio* list, their offer was accepted with thanks for their kindness in promoting the interest of the Club. Three vacancies were thus declared, and on a ballot these were filled by the election of the Rev. William Whewell, Professor Charles Wheatstone, and James Walker (F.R.S. 1828).

The arrangement which had now become customary in regard to the dinners in the autumn months was continued. The attendance at these dinners this year was less satisfactory. On July 2nd the Treasurer sat alone. In August four members made their appearance, in September only two. But thereafter a sudden rise took place, twelve assembling on October 1st, and fifteen on November 5th. The Club was becoming less frequented at Christmas time than it used to be. The Treasurer again dined in solitary state on December 24th, and on December 31st there was no attendance at all.

A few foreign visitors were invited to the Club this year. On January 9th Sir John Herschel brought the Comte Piccolomini. On March 19th Mr. Guillemard introduced Chevalier Bronsted. On October 1st Professor Christie entertained Professor Jacobi. Special interest attaches to the visit of Louis Agassiz on 19th November. The distinguished Swiss ichthyologist and glacialist had come to England this summer and attended the meeting of the British Association at Glasgow, where a remarkable company of geologists was assembled. He made excursions with Buckland into various parts of the Highlands and Lowlands, and found evidence everywhere that Scotland had been once encased in wide sheets of ice. It was after collecting this evidence that on the 4th of November he gave to the Geological Society an account of what he had seen and of the inferences which he drew from it. His address formed the starting-point of the investigation of

the glaciation of Britain, and of all the varied pile of descriptive essays and volumes which have since appeared. The geologists of this country could not for a time admit Agassiz's explanation of the facts, but they gradually came to see that no other explanation would account for them. We may well suppose that the discussion at the Geological Society's rooms formed part of the talk at the Club's dinner. There was a "James Smith" present at this dinner, and one would like to believe that it was "Smith of Jordanhill," who was the first to show, from the evidence of shells in the clays of the Clyde basin, that the climate of Scotland at a comparatively recent period was of an Arctic kind.

Among the English visitors we find the name of Lieut.-Col. R. Z. Mudge of the Royal Engineers, son of the eminent Director of the Ordnance Survey. He had served in the Peninsular War under Wellesley and fought at Talavera. Professor Miller, who dined as the guest of Herbert Mayo on April 16th, was not improbably William Hallowes Miller, Professor of Mineralogy in the University of Cambridge. Dr. Pye Smith may have been the nonconformist minister who was theological tutor at Homerton College, and author of several works, among which was one on the relations between Scripture and Geology which had appeared in 1839. Sir Astley Cooper, Bart., the well-known surgeon, was the guest of the President on May 21st. Dawson Turner, the botanist, was introduced on May 7th by Charles Hatchett. Murchison brought to the Club William Jory Henwood, the respected Cornish mineralogist, who only two months before had been elected into the Royal Society. It was fitting that in later years, after his host at the Royal Society Club was no longer living, the Geological Society should have conferred on him its Murchison Medal.

1841. The Anniversary in 1841 was held on 24th June, when twenty-one members were present, and Sir John Barrow was chairman.

It was reported by the Treasurer that the expenses of the past year amounted to £82 12s. 6d. and that there

remained in his hands a balance of £27 12s. 11d. The contribution for the year 1841-2 was fixed at two pounds.

There was one vacancy arising from the death of Robert Ferguson, and another was created by the transference of Colonel Colby to the Supplemental List, seeing that his professional duties on the Ordnance Survey, by requiring his residence in Scotland, would prevent his attendance at the meetings. He had proposed to resign his membership, but the Club wished to retain him on the Supplemental List so that he might on returning to London be replaced as a member should he so desire. A ballot was taken and John Forbes Royle, M.D., and Charles G. B. Daubeney, M.D., were declared to be duly elected.

It was agreed that the meetings during the vacation should continue as they had been for some years past. The following motion was adopted at this meeting: "It was resolved on the motion of Mr. Robert Brown, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Jennings, that Rule 14—'Any foreigner, who shall be invited by a member to dine with the Club, shall not be required to pay for his dinner,' be rescinded." The Minutes contain no reasons for this return to the former inhospitable treatment of foreign guests. Nor do the records furnish any evidence as to when the present practice was established that each member pays for the guest whom he invites, whether native or foreigner, save when the Executive Committee invites a distinguished visitor and places the cost of his entertainment as a charge on the funds of the Club. It will be seen on a later page that at least up to 1856 the question could arise whether or not a distinguished Bakerian lecturer, invited to dine with the Club, should be allowed to pay for his dinner.

Dr. J. F. Royle, now elected into the Club, was a surgeon and botanist who had been long in the service of the East India Company and attached to the Bengal Army. While superintendent of the Garden at Saharunpore he made a valuable collection of plants of economic use, and after his return to England he was appointed Professor of *Materia Medica* at King's College, London. He was elected into

the Royal Society in 1837. Dr. Charles Daubeny, a frequent visitor in previous years (p. 301), now became a valued member of the Club.

The two dinners during the Easter fortnight continued to be provided. To the first of them no one came; at the second the Treasurer, who probably appeared as a matter of duty, was alone. The attendance at the five meetings during the vacation was good, with the exception of the first, when the Treasurer and Sir R. H. Inglis were the only members present.

Of the few foreign visitors the most notable was "Prince Bonaparte," invited by Robert Brown on May 13. This was probably Charles, son of Lucien, Prince of Canino, brother of Napoleon. His youth was spent in Italy, where, far from the political troubles of the time, he attended some of the best universities and devoted his time mainly to the study of the natural sciences. After the rearrangement of Europe consequent on the close of the Napoleonic wars he went to America, and with great zeal took to study the ornithology of the United States and to publish what was meant to be a supplement to Alexander Wilson's "American Ornithology." Returning to Europe in 1828 and establishing himself in Central Italy on his father's estate at Canino, he gave himself up wholly to natural history pursuits, and began the publication of a fine work on the Italian fauna. The death of his father in 1840 made him Prince of Canino and of Musignano. During the political unrest in 1847-9 he was drawn for a time into active participation in the liberal movement in Italy. Looking on the entry of the French army into Rome as the ruin of the Republican cause he quitted Italy for France, but he had no sooner landed in that country than the government of his cousin, President Louis Napoleon, bundled him off to England. Recognising that there was now no further scope for him in the political world, he returned to the prosecution of his natural history pursuits, and continued to add to the literature of the subject further memoirs and monographs until he died in 1857.

Dr. Burmeister, who dined as the President's guest on June 17, was no doubt the able naturalist, geologist, and professor of Halle, who drew many students to his eloquent lectures, and to whom geology is indebted for monographs on Trilobites and Labyrinthodonts.

Professor Christie invited on October 7th Jacques Charles François Sturm, an eminent French mathematician who some years before, when he was only four-and-twenty, had, in conjunction with his friend Daniel Colladon, carried off the "Grand prix de mathématiques" proposed by the Academy of Sciences of Paris for the best essay on the compression of liquids. Having filled several successive chairs and discovered and published the celebrated theorem which bears his name, he was now Professor of Mechanics at the Faculty of Sciences. He had been elected a foreign member of the Royal Society in 1840. To this same dinner Professor Sturm's friend Colladon had accompanied him on the invitation of Wheatstone.

Professor Vogel dined on January 7 on the invitation of Major Sabine ; Manackgie Curitzu on May 13 as the guest of the President, and Professor Wartman on October 7, introduced by J. F. Daniell.

To a few of the English visitors of this year brief reference may be made. Sir Richard Jenkyns, invited by Sir George Staunton, had spent many years in India as Resident at several courts. On coming back to England he entered Parliament and eventually was elected Chairman of the East India Company.

Murchison invited G. W. Featherstonhaugh, one of his intimate friends, of whom he has stated that he was the first in 1831 to introduce the European ideas of geology into the United States, and that he induced President Jackson to appoint him State Geologist. Murchison further records that "at the time of the French Revolution of 1848, when Louis-Philippe fled from Paris and was hid in a cottage with Queen Amélie on the south bank of the Seine, opposite to Havre, it was Featherstonhaugh, then British Consul at Havre, who managed to get the family

of 'Mr. Smith' over by night, and popped them into a British steam-packet. Even in this act the Consul was the geologist, for he passed off the ex-King as his uncle William Smith, the father of English Geology!"¹

The guest invited by J. L. Guillemard on February 11th was probably John Edward Trelawny, best remembered for his relations with Shelley and Byron in Italy. He was at Leghorn when Shelley was drowned, and he has secured a lasting place in the hearts of all lovers of the poet from the pious care with which he prepared Shelley's tomb in the Protestant cemetery at Rome.

Sir Edward Cust, introduced by the President on March 18th, had fought in most of the battles in the Peninsula and had thereafter entered the House of Commons. In later years he published his "Annals of the Wars of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries."

1842. In 1842 the Anniversary took place on June 16th, and was attended by twenty-four members, with Sir Alexander Johnston presiding.²

During the past year the expenses had amounted to £86 13s. 6d., and there remained in the Treasurer's hands a balance of £45 3s. 5d. The contribution for the coming year was fixed at two pounds.

The death of Sir Francis Chantrey and A. B. Lambert was reported. The two vacancies thus arising were filled by the election by ballot of Edward Hawkins and Sir George Rose.

As Captain W. H. Smyth was now about to reside again in London his name was ordered to be placed on the *ex officio* list.

It was moved, seconded, and carried, "that in future a dessert be put upon the table after dinner." It was further

¹ *Life of Murchison*, vol. i. p. 215.

² The proper day should have been the 23rd, but as the British Association meeting at Manchester had been arranged for that week, it appeared to the President and a few other members at the meeting of the Club on May 12th that it would be convenient to make the Anniversary a week earlier. Accordingly notices of the change of date were at once sent to the members.

moved, "that for the ensuing year the dinners of the Club be upon the same scale as those of the Club of the Geological Society which holds its meetings also at the Crown and Anchor Tavern." The President declared this motion to be carried, the Ayes being 13 and the Noes 7. Until it could be ascertained what the difference in expense might be, it was agreed that the same sum should continue to be collected by the Tavern, viz. eight shillings per head.

The same arrangement as in recent years was ordered to be observed in regard to dinners in the vacation.

Of the new members now added to the Club, Edward Hawkins was an archaeologist and Keeper of Antiquities at the British Museum. He had published the year before a work on the "Silver Coins of England," and was elected into the Royal Society as far back as 1821. Sir George Henry Rose had successively filled several diplomatic posts at European courts, and was at this time member of Parliament for Christchurch. He became F.R.S. in 1834.

The dinners during the Easter weeks continued this year to attract neither members nor guests. On March 17th the Treasurer and Murchison had the table to themselves, on the 24th nobody came, and on the 31st the Treasurer was alone. To make up for this defection the meetings on the first Thursdays of the months during the vacation were better attended than they had previously been.

Four foreign guests this year may be alluded to here. Alexander Chodzko, a Pole who had long studied oriental languages, was invited by Sir George Staunton. He had lived for a dozen of years in Persia as dragoman and consul and returned to Europe in 1841, after which he published translations of Persian poetry, some in English and some in French.

On June 9th Murchison, now in the full activity of his Presidentship of the Geological Society and busy with the preparation of the great volumes on Russia as the result of his tour in that empire during the previous year, invited to the Club the Russian geologist Count A. de Keyserling, who had been his companion in Russia, and who was now

come to England to make a series of geological excursions with Murchison.

The "Dr. Lepsius" who dined on August 4 was the well-known archaeologist who at this time had come to England on his way to conduct an expedition to Egypt. He started from London in the following month. The results of that famous journey are preserved in his great work "*Denkmäler aus Aegypten und Aethiopien*."

Edward Everett, the guest of J. L. Guillemand on November 17th, was one of the most eminent Americans who ever dined with the Club. Educated for a clergyman he specially distinguished himself by his attainments in Greek, which were so marked that in 1815, when only twenty-one years of age, he was chosen Professor of Greek at Harvard. To equip himself more thoroughly for this office he spent four years in Europe and made many friends among literary men of different countries. Thereafter he became in successive years editor of the *North American Review*, member of Congress, Governor of Massachusetts, and now he had come as Minister Plenipotentiary to the court of St. James. He retained this position from 1841 until 1845, and on his return to America was chosen President of Harvard College.

The guest introduced by Professor Christie on January 13 may be identified with William Hopkins, the Cambridge mathematical coach who had dined with the Club in 1833. He was a geologist of mark, President of the Geological Society in 1851 and of the British Association in 1853. His contributions to geological science though not numerous were of great originality and value.

John Peter Gassiot, who had become F.R.S. in 1840, dined with the Club on July 7th. An able investigator of electrical phenomena, he was also a generous supporter of meteorological and magnetic research. He was chiefly instrumental in the endowment of Kew Observatory, of which he was chairman, and to him the Royal Society owes the foundation of the valuable Gassiot Trust Fund and the origination of the Scientific Relief Fund, which has proved



RIGHT HON. SIR ALEXANDER JOHNSTON, P.C., F.R.S., 1810.



so important an institution for aiding men of science or their families when in need of financial assistance.

1843. At the Anniversary on June 22, 1843, there were present sixteen members, with the President in the chair. The Treasurer announced that the expenses during the past year had amounted to £134 9s. and that there remained in his hands a balance of £8 18s. 5d. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at two pounds.

The death of His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex was announced.

Mr. Herbert Mayo being still resident abroad on account of his health applied to be placed on the Supplemental List in order that he might be replaced in the Club when the state of his health should permit him to return. The application was granted. His contribution for the past year was ordered to be written off and his name was inserted in the Supplemental List. Mr. Thomas Murdoch resigned his membership on account of bodily infirmities which prevented his further attendance at the meetings. Letters of resignation were also received from Mr. Hallam and Dr. Royle. The four vacancies thus arising were put to the ballot and three new members were elected, viz. Captain James Clark Ross, Rev. Dr. Buckland, and Lieut.-Colonel Batty.

An increase in the cost of the dinners was considered and accepted. It was agreed "that the price of the dinner including coffee and tea should be raised from eight to ten shillings." The allowance to the waiters, which for many years had been at the rate of sixpence per head for each person at table, was likewise fully considered, and the Club now agreed that this allowance should be in dinners ordered for six and under twelve persons, six shillings, and in dinners ordered for twelve or more persons, twelve shillings. The practice had been that if no member attended, nothing was paid for waiters, though if a dinner had been provided, the waiters were of course in attendance. It was further agreed that the increased charges now sanctioned should be allowed from the date of the last Anniversary.

The meetings during the vacation were ordered to be continued in the reduced number which had been in practice for some years.

The new members elected into the Club this year were a considerable accession to its strength, in representatives of the Navy, the Army, and the Universities. Captain James Clark Ross since he was first a guest of the Club had greatly increased his reputation as a skilful and successful navigator. From 1819 to 1831 he had been engaged in a succession of voyages in the Arctic regions, during which he discovered the Magnetic Pole. Thereafter he took part in the magnetic survey of the United Kingdom, but his greatest achievement was his expedition to the Antarctic regions from 1839 to 1843, from which he had not yet returned when he was elected into the Club. The two interesting volumes which he and his associates, Captain Crozier, Joseph Hooker, and others, prepared of what they saw and did in those southern climes, gave the first connected picture of the Antarctic lands and seas, not only in regard to their scenery but to their physical condition and their natural history. The existence of Mount Erebus, an active volcano rising amid perpetual snow and ice, so near the south pole was a discovery of the first magnitude. Captain Ross was elected into the Royal Society in 1828.

Dr. William Buckland as visitor has already come before the reader (pp. 261, 284). His genial presence could not but be an additional attraction at the dinners. He had been for thirty years engaged at Oxford in lecturing on geology, and demonstrating the principles of the science in the field to his pupils. His excursions, often on horseback, were popular among the undergraduates, and he had the satisfaction of finding as years went by that the seed which he sowed in their minds bore fruit in the production of some excellent geologists. Dr. Buckland had been a Fellow of the Royal Society since 1818. A few years after his entry into the Club mental failure began to affect him and led to the ultimate retirement in which he spent the last years of his life. He died in 1856.

Lieutenant-Colonel Robert Batty was elected into the Royal Society in 1822.

Among the very few foreign visitors who came to the Club this year reference may be made to the German traveller Johann Georg Kohl, introduced on September 7th by Professor Christie. He had spent many years in journeys over a large portion of Europe, not merely running rapidly over the countries, but spending years in some of them, minutely studying the land and the people living on it. He had already published several volumes about Russia, and at the date of his visit to the Club he had been for some time gathering material for the five volumes on England and Scotland which he published next year. His two volumes on Ireland were issued in German at Leipzig and Dresden this year.

Daniel Colladon, who has been already alluded to (p. 333), was another of Professor Christie's guests this summer.

At the beginning of this year a practice was introduced of which no explanation is to be found either in the contemporary weekly register or in the Minute-book of the Anniversary meetings. Four guests appear on January 5th, and the only member present is the Treasurer, who appends in his register—"the visitors introduced by the Treasurer." It might be conjectured that they were guests of members who were prevented from coming to the dinner. But the practice occurs again more than once, and the invitations were evidently given by the Treasurer himself. On 28th December four guests again appear under the wing of the Treasurer, whose note in the register is: "the Treasurer being the only member present the visitors were introduced by him." Three out of the four were the same as on January 5th. One of them, "Mr. Robert Grant," may have been the Professor of Comparative Anatomy and Zoology at London University. Probably, as the dinners were actually provided by the Club, the Treasurer deemed it proper for the credit of the Club to bring some of his friends to partake of them.

The *Erebus* and *Terror* having returned to England on September 5th there must have been a good deal of hearty hand-shaking and congratulation at the Club on December 14th to welcome back Captain James C. Ross and his loyal and tried comrade Captain Crozier from their Antarctic expedition, which had extended over four years and five months. Captain Ross now entered the Club for the first time since his election as a member. Captain Crozier had seen service among the Arctic lands and seas under Parry, and he had been a leading spirit under Captain Ross in the far south. There was still to come his return to the Arctic regions under Franklin, and the sad fate which befel these intrepid explorers after they had really solved the problem of the North-west Passage.

1844. The Anniversary Meeting of the Club on June 27, 1844, was attended by twenty-six members, with Sir John Barrow in the chair. The expenses for the year since last Anniversary were announced by the Treasurer to have come to £134 1s. 6d., leaving a balance due to him of £42 19s. 1d. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at two pounds ten shillings.

Lord Burlington and Dr. Whewell not having been at any meeting of the Club for three years, "the question was put from the Chair that these gentlemen be discontinued as members, which was carried." Lord Stanley desired to resign his membership "on account of increasing infirmities and to express his ardent feelings of regard and respect for a Society with which he had been connected nearly half a century."¹

It was agreed that the usual arrangement of dinners during the autumn vacation should be continued. Four vacancies in the membership had to be filled up, and on a ballot George William, fourth Baron Lyttelton, Charles Elliott, Robert Edwards Broughton, and Sir John Franklin were declared duly elected.

¹ As already mentioned, this member of the Club after succeeding to his father's baronetcy in 1807 was in 1839 created Baron Stanley of Alderley.

Lord Lyttelton became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1840, three years after he succeeded to the peerage. He was a highly cultivated country gentleman who interested himself in the welfare of his county. He was chosen the first President of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, for a time he was Under-Secretary for the Colonies and afterwards Chief Commissioner of Endowed Schools. Charles Elliott was elected into the Royal Society in 1835 and R. E. Broughton in 1842. Sir John Franklin's fellowship of the Society was conferred on him in 1823. Since he last dined with the Club he had, as Lieutenant-governor of Van Diemen's Land, spent some six years on the island doing his best to humanise the convicts there. Having now returned to England he this year dined once with the Club in June as a visitor, and three times in the autumn as a member. He was now busy making preparations to start next year on his last and fatal expedition.

Most of the visitors had previously dined with the Club. Among the new-comers were Sir Charles Vaughan of the Diplomatic service, who had been Secretary of Legation in Spain and in Paris, and our Ambassador to Switzerland and the United States; William Longman, the head of the well-known publishing house; Dr. John Merewether, Dean of Hereford; Mr. Bowman, probably the distinguished ophthalmic surgeon who became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1841 and for many years, in that Society and at the Royal Institution, took an active part in the scientific life of London; and "Mr. Weld," a guest invited by Sir John Franklin on October 3rd, who may be conjectured to have been the able member of the Middle Temple who next year became the assistant-secretary and librarian of the Royal Society, and three years thereafter published his well-known "History of the Royal Society." Captain James Ross availed himself of his right as a member to bring his tried colleague Captain Crozier to the Club on March 7th, and Murchison again invited his old friend and correspondent Featherstonhaugh.

1845. In 1845 the Anniversary took place on June 26th and was attended by :

The President

Lord Lyttelton	Sir George T. Staunton
Sir Alexander Johnston	Sir John Barrow
Sir John Rennie	Dr. Roget
Dr. Mayo	Lieut.-Colonel Leake
Charles König	Mr. Broughton
Robert Brown	Rev. Dr. Jennings
Rev. Dr. Buckland	Edward Hawkins
Captn. W. W. Smyth	Dr. Daubeny
George Dollond	Lieut.-Colonel Batty

The Treasurer

The Treasurer submitted his financial statement, from which it appeared that the expenditure during the past year had amounted to £164 15s. 1d., leaving a balance in hand of £4 14s. 11d. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at two pounds ten shillings. The total attendance at the dinners since the last Anniversary was 345, comprising 262 members and 83 visitors.

Five vacancies were reported in the membership. Four of these were caused by the deaths of Francis Baily, John L. Guillemard, Thomas Phillipps, and Dr. Edmund Goodenough, Dean of Wells. A fifth arose from the departure of Sir John Franklin on his Arctic expedition, and his consequent transference to the Supplemental List. The vacancies were filled by ballot, when the following candidates were duly elected : John Merewether, Captain Henry Howland Brandreth, Hart Davis, John Barrow, and Travers Twiss. The death of Professor Daniell, which occurred on March 13th, did not involve any vacancy, he being an *ex officio* member as Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society.

The usual arrangement for the dinners during the vacation was continued, and the Marquess of Northampton and Mr. Joseph Smith were re-elected as respectively President and Treasurer of the Club.

Of the five new members now added the following few particulars may be inserted here. The Rev. John Merewether, D.D., was appointed Dean of Hereford in 1832.

His election into the Royal Society dated from 1838. H. H. Brandreth, Captain in the Royal Engineers, and also Hart Davis, both became F.R.S. in 1841. John Barrow, son of Sir John, Secretary to the Admiralty, and frequently brought by him as a visitor to the Club, was elected into the Royal Society in 1844. Travers Twiss, an able barrister of Lincoln's Inn, was elected F.R.S. in 1838. At the time of his admission into the membership of the Club he was Drummond Professor of Political Economy. He was afterwards appointed Professor of International Law at King's College, London, and in 1855 Regius Professor of Civil Law at Oxford. He was knighted in 1867.

Further indications of the increasing disposition of the Club to enjoy a holiday are to be noted in the records of this year. In Whitsun week, though a dinner was provided, there was no attendance, and contrary to the early practice of the Club, no dinner was ordered on Christmas Day. The arrangement for the monthly dinner during the vacation of the Royal Society, however, continued to be well supported. There were never fewer than eight on the first Thursday of each month and usually more than that number.

Sir John Franklin, now in the fullest activity of preparation for his expedition in search of the north-west passage, found time to dine twice with the Club in January. On one of these occasions Sir James Clark Ross was also present, whose ships, the *Erebus* and *Terror*, Franklin was to take into the Arctic regions. The intrepid navigator sailed from Greenhithe on May 19th, taking with him a large and picked staff of officers and men. He disappeared among the northern ice and snow. One expedition after another was fruitlessly sent for his relief. At last, after five years of ceaseless search, traces of the expedition were found, and afterwards full proof that no survivor remained, and that Franklin died on 11th June 1847. But he had discovered the North-west Passage.

Captain Crozier, who accompanied Franklin, dined with the Club for the last time on April 17th as the guest of his

friend and commander Sir James Ross. Among the guests this year Professor Richard Owen reappeared. The interval of ten years since he first dined with the Club had been sedulously employed by him in research, and his reputation had now spread far. His appointment to the first Hunterian Professorship of Comparative Anatomy had given him the opportunity to develop his remarkable power of lucid exposition, and his lectures attracted many listeners. There still lay before him nearly half a century of activity and success. Dr. Roget introduced to the Club on June 5th Archibald Smith, son of James Smith of Jordanhill, a brilliant mathematician who was senior wrangler in 1836. He had taken to law as his profession and became a barrister of Lincoln's Inn, but devoted some part of his time to the practical applications of science, particularly in regard to the adjustment of the compass in iron ships. The Royal Society elected him into its number in 1856 and awarded him one of its Royal medals in 1865. Captain Cautley, invited by the President on November 20th, had served for many years in India, specially in the planning and construction of canals. He likewise exhumed from the Siwalic Hills a magnificent series of the remains of extinct and in some cases gigantic mammals, as well as reptiles and birds, which Dr. Hugh Falconer and he described and illustrated in their great work *Fauna Sivalensis*. The chief part of these remains was presented to the British Museum. Captain Cautley became in 1854 Sir Proby Thomas Cautley, K.C.B. He was afterwards appointed British Resident in Cabul, where he was murdered by mutinous Afghans.

1846. At the Anniversary meeting in 1846, held on June 25th, there were present twenty-seven members, and the chair was taken by the Marquess of Northampton, President.

The Treasurer's report showed that the expenses since the last Anniversary had amounted to £124 17s. and that a balance of £2 17s. 11d. remained in his hands. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at fifty shillings.

No vacancies arose from non-attendance, the absent members having tendered adequate apologies, but two

vacancies were caused, one by the resignation of Sir George Rose and the other by the offer of George Rennie to have his name transferred to the *ex officio* list, as he had been elected Treasurer of the Royal Society. On a ballot being taken John Dickinson and Thomas Galloway were declared to be duly elected. The former, who had been chosen into the Royal Society in the previous year, was the head of the well-known firm of paper-makers at Nash Mills, Hemel Hempstead, and a man of marked scientific tastes. He was the uncle of John Evans, the antiquary and subsequently Treasurer of the Royal Society. Moreover, he came into a particularly close relationship with that eminent man, who became a partner in his firm and married his daughter. Thomas Galloway, an able mathematician from Edinburgh, taught mathematics at Sandhurst for a time, and afterwards was appointed registrar of the Amicable Life Assurance Company. He contributed articles to the *Edinburgh Review* and to the seventh edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*. He became F.R.S. in 1834.

There was again a defection of members from the two dinners at Easter. At the first only the Treasurer and his guest attended, and to the second no one came at all. There are further instances of the Treasurer's efforts to make a dinner-party by bringing all the diners himself. Thus, on New-Year's Day there was a Club dinner to which he and four of his friends came. He appends the following note in the weekly register: "The Treasurer being the only member present, the visitors were introduced by him." Colonel Sabine on 3rd September was still more successful in collecting a party in vacation time; the company numbered seven, and they were all guests but himself: the Treasurer's note of this dinner runs thus: "Colonel Sabine being the only member present, the visitors were introduced by him." The party was remarkable enough to be quoted here—Colonel Sabine, with Colonel Dundas, Professor Oersted, Professor Schönbein, Dr. Forchhammer, Mr. Grove, and Professor Ansted. Oersted, the famous Danish physicist, has been already mentioned (p. 279). Professor Schönbein, the eminent

chemist from Bâle, was the discoverer of ozone, and the inventor of gun-cotton and collodion. Dr. Forchhammer has been alluded to among the guests of 1837. Mr. Grove was no doubt the judge and author of the brilliant "Correlation of the Physical Forces." Professor Ansted was the Professor of Geology at King's College, London, and at this time Secretary to the Geological Society.

Another guest this year was the much respected Leonard Horner, brother of the politician Francis Horner, and father-in-law of Sir Charles Lyell. His remarkably grave face and stately manner, as well as his shrewd sense and tact, led to his being frequently asked to fill the office of Chairman. It used to be said of him, as he presided at a meeting, that he looked wiser than any man could possibly be. He had a kindly heart also, which showed itself in the pains he took to bring forward the younger men of science of his day. His friend Murchison, now knighted, was present at the same dinner. Both at the Royal and the Geological Society the two men were thrown much together.¹

Other guests were Sir Thomas Cartwright, British Ambassador to Sweden; Lieut.-Colonel William Henry Sykes, F.R.S., who saw much service in India when in the East India Company's service; Major Cautley, and others already mentioned.

1847. In the year 1847 the Anniversary on July 1st¹ was attended by thirty members, with Sir Robert Harry Inglis in the chair. The expenditure since the last Anniversary was reported to amount to £129 11s., leaving a balance of £12 9s. 1d. due to the Treasurer. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at two pounds ten shillings. There was a single vacancy, due to the death of Charles Hatchett, the much respected Father of the Club, whose election, dating as far back as 1802, was one in which Henry Cavendish had taken a special interest. As the result of a ballot John

¹ It may be noted that again the appointed date of the Club's Anniversary was postponed till the following week, seeing that many of the members wished to attend the meeting of the British Association at Oxford. No dinner was provided on 24th June.

Ayrton Paris, proposed by Dr. Roget and seconded by Sir R. I. Murchison, was declared to be duly elected. He was a physician educated at Cambridge and Edinburgh, and held the office of President of the Royal College of Physicians. He had been elected into the Royal Society as far back as 1821.

The usual arrangement of dinners in the vacation was sanctioned, but a further new regulation was enacted, providing that notwithstanding the suspension of the full number of weekly meetings during the autumn "any Fellow of the R.S. Club shall be at liberty to order a Club dinner on any of the intervening Thursdays, on making himself responsible to the Club in such case for not less than six persons at ten shillings each, including wine and dessert, tea and coffee to be provided in proportion."

The Easter attendance was unsatisfactory. No one came to the first dinner, and the Treasurer and two friends formed all the company at the second. The first of the vacation dinners having been made the date of the Anniversary, it was attended by the large number of thirty members. At the later dinners in August, September, and October the company varied from three to seven.

A few names of some note occur in the dinner lists this year. The "Dr. H. Acland" who dined on February 4th was doubtless the future Sir Henry Wentworth Dyke Acland, K.C.B., the much esteemed Professor of Clinical Medicine at Oxford, and President of the General Medical Council. "Professor Smyth," introduced by his father, Captain W. H. Smyth, was known in later years as Sir Warrington Smyth, M.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge, the genial member of the so-called "Jermyn Street gang," or staff of the Geological Survey and School of Mines, in which De la Beche, Edward Forbes, Andrew C. Ramsay, John Percy, Lyon Playfair, Robert Hunt, and others were his associates. At this time he was only thirty years of age, and had returned from his training at the German mining academies, and in 1844 had entered upon his long and useful connection with the Survey and School of Mines.

Colonel Sabine's guest on February 25th, Captain Young-husband of the Royal Artillery, became a member of the Club in 1857. Admiral Sir John Acworth Ommanney, introduced by Sir George Staunton, had seen much active service at sea towards the end of the eighteenth century and in the early decades of the nineteenth. He took a prominent part at the battle of Navarino, and was made K.C.B. in 1838. Dr. Whewell, who had been "discontinued" in 1844 for having attended no meetings of the Club for the space of three years, dined again with the Club on December 16th on the invitation of Professor Wheatstone. There were not many foreign visitors this year. A few were gathered at the dinner on June 3rd under the President's chairmanship. Sir R. I. Murchison introduced Captain Lentkoffsky, Robert Brown brought Captain Korniloff, and the Treasurer brought Mons. Grimm.

For some time previous to this year considerable dissatisfaction manifested itself among the Fellows in regard to the conduct of the business of the Royal Society, and more particularly respecting the manner in which the choice and election of Fellows were carried out. There was a general feeling among at least the more actively scientific members that many candidates were elected whose claims in regard to scientific attainment were slender, and that the Society as a body had no sufficient control over their election. Sometimes as many as forty or fifty new Fellows were added in the course of a year, and the elections were distributed over all the months in which the Society was in session. The attendance at a meeting might be small, and representative of a mere fraction of the whole body of Fellows, yet it had the power of electing any candidate whose certificate was presented in proper form. Thus the friends of a candidate who had notice of the date fixed for his election might muster as many Fellows as they could gather together, and unless there happened to be any active opposition, they could without difficulty secure the success of the applicant whom they supported. Unquestionably the officials of the Society, and the Fellows whose avocations

permitted them to be frequent attendants at the meetings, had much in their power with respect to candidates whom they favoured. A belief indeed is said to have arisen among the men of science on the Continent that with a little trouble almost anybody could obtain the Fellowship of the Royal Society.

The agitation for reform became so urgent that in 1846 the Council appointed a Committee to consider the mode of election of Fellows. The result of the deliberations of this Committee was seen next year in the adoption of a new series of statutes which wrought a revolution in the procedure of the Society in regard to this matter. In the first place, the election of ordinary Fellows by the general body of the Society was fixed to take place only on the first Thursday of June, which was specially set apart for the purpose. Again, ample notice was to be given of the meeting, and a list of the candidates proposed by the Council was to be circulated previously among the Fellows. Further, the number of ordinary candidates to be submitted for election was not to exceed fifteen in each year, and these were to be carefully selected by the Council.

This salutary change of method, which has remained practically unaltered to the present time, directly affected the Club, by making one of its meetings unnecessary. On the Thursday on which the election of new Fellows took place the general body of the Society for some years dined together in the evening, and the members of the Club naturally gave up their own meeting in order to join that dinner. But a further result of the reform movement soon appeared. If the Royal Society required reformation, the energetic spirits by whom this change was brought about would not improbably think that their new broom might well be applied also to the dining Club. There was generally a waiting list of candidates for admission into this Club, and years might pass before an applicant could become a member. Many of the members had obviously not been chosen for their scientific eminence. The reformers, however, do not appear to have ever attempted to secure any

enlargement or other transformation of that company. The more ardent of their number probably thought that the atmosphere of the Club would hardly be altogether congenial to their resolutely scientific habit of mind and that it would be better to establish a dining club of their own. This resolve they carried into effect on 12th April 1847, when they founded the "Philosophical Club." The promoters of this enterprise were of course all Fellows of the Royal Society, and about a dozen of them were also members of the Royal Society Club. Their main purpose was "to promote as much as possible the scientific objects of the Royal Society, to facilitate intercourse between those Fellows who are actively engaged in cultivating the various branches of natural science and who have contributed to its progress; to increase the attendance at the evening meetings, and to encourage the contribution and the discussion of Papers." The number of members was limited to forty-seven, no strangers except "scientific foreigners temporarily visiting this country" were to be present at any of the meetings, which were to be monthly.

The Philosophical Club undoubtedly fulfilled the objects for which it was instituted. It furthered the progress of science among its cultivators and it rendered useful service in promoting the best interests of the Royal Society. There was an earnestness in its aim which was never lost sight of throughout its career. The elaborate manuscript reports of its meetings, as compiled by its line of accomplished Treasurers, present a remarkable record of the variety, and often the originality of the facts communicated by the members and of the discussions which took place in connection with these communications. It continued to flourish for two generations. From its beginning onwards a considerable proportion of its members continued to be also members of the Royal Society Club and from first to last no coolness or rivalry seems to have arisen between the two institutions. But towards the end of last century a desire arose among the members of both Clubs for the fusion of the two organisations into one. Committees were

accordingly appointed to consider whether and in what way an union could be brought about. Finally, in the year 1901 the two institutions were merged into one. These proceedings will be described in a later chapter of this work. But meanwhile the reader will understand that from the spring of 1847 onwards the Royal Society Club was no longer the only institution of the kind connected with the Society, but that another similar body, with like aims but with a more restricted kind of hospitality, was living by its side.

1848. The Anniversary Meeting in 1848 was held on June 22nd, attended by twenty-three members, and presided over by Sir George T. Staunton. The Treasurer reported that his outlay since the last annual General Meeting amounted to £111 9s. 1d. and that there remained in his hands a balance of £5 12s. 11d. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at two pounds ten shillings.

The death of Major Brandreth caused a vacancy in the membership, and two more arose from the resignation of Colonel Batty and W. T. Brande. Seven members had not attended any meeting since the previous Anniversary, but no vacancies were declared in the case of any of these absentees. Mr. Brande being on the *ex officio* list only two of the vacancies required to be dealt with. One of them was filled by the election of John Disney, the other was held over till next year.

The usual arrangement for the dinners during the vacation was ordered to be continued this year.

The new member, John Disney, barrister of the Inner Temple, had strong antiquarian tastes, which he indulged by making a collection of Roman marbles. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1832. He founded in 1851 the Disney Professorship of Archaeology at Cambridge, and bequeathed his collection to the University there.

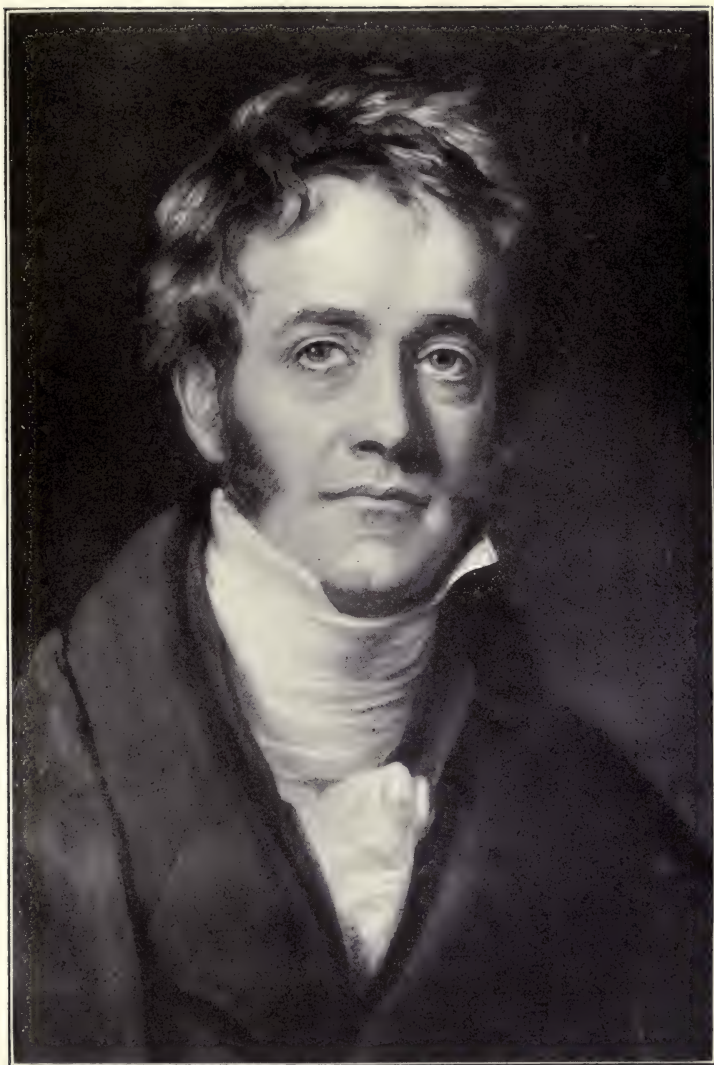
In the month of January notice of a serious change in its habitation was suddenly sprung upon the Club. On the 10th of that month the Treasurer was informed by the landlord of the "Crown and Anchor" that he had

parted with the premises in which the Club met and that he was bound by his agreement to give immediate possession to the purchasers. The Club had met as usual on the 6th, but could not hold another meeting in the old quarters. After a diligent search it was decided to meet henceforth at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, which would still be within a convenient distance from the Royal Society meetings at Somerset House. Two Thursdays were thus lost. The first meeting at the new rooms was held on January 27th. The Club had met without interruption at the "Crown and Anchor" since 21st December 1780—a period of sixty-eight years.

The present year was the first under the new regulation for the election of Fellows at the Royal Society. The election was held on June 9th. The Club accordingly gave up their meeting on Thursday 8th in order to join the dinner which the general body of Fellows had arranged for the evening of the election-day. On Ascension Day, which was June 1st, the Society did not meet, and the Club also took the same course.

No guests of note were entertained by the Club this year. The only foreigner appears to have been Henry Rogers from Pennsylvania, who was invited by Murchison. He and his brother William were recognised leaders among the geologists of the United States. He was appointed in 1857 to be the Professor of Natural History at Glasgow University, a position which he filled till his death in 1866.

The Club records of this year and the years immediately preceding afford another illustration of the absence of any allusion to outside events, even when these were of such a nature as to affect the calm not only of London but of the country at large. All through the long wars with France, as we have seen, the Club transacted its customary business in the same even tenour as during years of undisturbed peace, and without any reference to the progress of the campaigns by land or sea. We have found too that when a chief part of London was in the hands of the mob during the Gordon riots, the meetings went on with their



SIR JOHN FREDERICK WILLIAM HERSCHEL, BART., F.R.S., 1813.

Secretary, R.S., 1824.

usual regularity and no diminution in the attendance. This year London was threatened with disturbance by the Chartists, who were to assemble on the 10th of April upon Kennington Common to the number of 200,000 and march to Westminster to present a petition to Parliament. Outbreaks of violence were feared, and every precaution was taken by the authorities to quell them. Among other preparations a large body of special constables was enrolled to protect public buildings and preserve order. Government offices were particularly guarded, and civil servants were supplied with batons to defend them against any rioters. Among other places for the protection of which their inmates armed themselves was the infant Museum of the School of Mines at Craig's Court, Charing Cross. Andrew C. Ramsay, who was one of the staff, made the following entry in his diary on the fateful 10th of April: "Grand row expected to-day. Forbes called, and we went down to the Museum before ten; met Playfair; Sir Henry De la Beche very active and mysterious, passing through holes into the back stables of the Scotland Yard Police Office, and bringing out armfuls of cutlasses. Streets full of special constables. Chartists afraid and cowed." Fortunately nothing more serious happened. Meanwhile the weekly meetings of the Club went on as usual. They were dropped this year during the Easter recess, the existence of which was thus for the first time recognised by the Club as it had long been by the Society. Another change was shown when the Club did not meet on Ascension Day and provided no dinner for Whitsun week.

On the 30th November this year the Marquess of Northampton resigned the Presidentship of the Royal Society and of the Club after having held office for ten years.¹ He was succeeded in both places by the Earl of Rosse. At the same Anniversary Thomas Bell was elected one of the Secretaries of the Society. The Club's *ex officio* list was thus increased by the addition of two. Lord Rosse became a member of the Club in 1834 when he was Lord Oxmantown.

¹ He died on 17th January 1851.

As already stated, he had been unable to attend the meetings and lost his place in the membership. He was probably too much engaged in his telescopic work in Ireland to have much time to spare for visits to London. His labours at Parsonstown had now borne fruit, and he enjoyed a world-wide reputation as a practical astronomer who at his own expense had constructed the largest reflecting telescope in the world and knew how to put it to use.

Thomas Bell, dental surgeon at Guy's Hospital, was also Professor of Zoology at King's College, London. Five years from this time he was elected President of the Linnean Society. He became F.R.S. in 1828.

CHAPTER XI

PRESIDENTSHIPS OF THE EARL OF ROSSE, BARON
WROTTESELEY, AND SIR BENJAMIN COLLINS BRODIE
1849-1861

1849. At the Anniversary Meeting of the Club on 28th June 1849 twenty-four members were present, with the Earl of Rosse, President, in the chair. The expenditure in the past year had amounted to £110 15s. and there remained in the Treasurer's hands a balance of £31 3s. 11d. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at two pounds.

The ranks of the Club were thinned this year by the loss of some valuable members. The expected resignation of the venerable Dr. Buckland, who since 1845 had been Dean of Westminster, was now announced. Owing to the mental collapse already referred to, he was compelled to seek retirement, though he lived till 1856. The President of the Royal Academy, Sir Martin Shee, likewise this year resigned his place in the Club, on the ground of failing health.¹ Sir John Barrow, now the Father of the Club, who retained all his faculties, and was able to transact business up to the forenoon of the last day of his life, died quietly and suddenly while sitting at luncheon on 23rd November 1848, in the eighty-fifth year of his age. Sir Alexander Johnston, another old and most efficient member, died on 6th March 1849.

Five vacancies were announced, and on a ballot the following candidates were elected. John Carnac Morris,

¹ He died next year.

Charles Holland, Lord Chief Baron Pollock, and Sir William Burnett.

J. C. Morris, after a short stay in the Navy as a midshipman, entered the Madras Civil Service, and distinguished himself by acquiring the Telugu language, of which he eventually published a dictionary. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1831. He returned to England in 1846. Charles Holland, physician, became F.R.S. in 1837. Sir Frederick Pollock, distinguished as a barrister, entered Parliament in 1831, and after being Attorney-general was in 1844 made Chief Baron of the Exchequer—a position which he held for two-and-twenty years, when he retired and was made a baronet. He had been elected into the Royal Society as far back as 1816. Sir William Burnett, who had been a visitor thirteen years before, was present as a naval surgeon at the battles of St. Vincent, the Nile, and Trafalgar. Afterwards he was for many years Physician-general of the Navy. He was knighted in 1831 and elected into the Royal Society in 1833. He lived till 1861.

It has been noticed in the records of the last year or two that the existence of a recess at Easter and of another at Whitsuntide was at length recognised at the Club by at least the Treasurer, who usually has written against the dates in question the reason of the smallness or absence of attendance. But he was now at last empowered to go a step further, and to cease to provide dinners during these recesses. He also dropped two dinners during the fortnight of the Christmas recess. The precedent set last year of omitting a meeting so as to join the Royal Society's dinner in connection with the new arrangement for the election of Fellows was followed again this year. On this occasion the Society appears to have dined on the evening of the election day, Thursday, 7th June, and the members of the Club, instead of holding their own weekly dinner as usual, joined that of the general body of the Fellows. The Treasurer, in recording this arrangement, adds that the company numbered thirty.

The guests at the ordinary dinners of the Club this year included some prominent men of the time. On 6th December Thomas Babington Macaulay dined on the invitation of Sir Robert Inglis. He had the year before published the first two volumes of his history, which were received with extraordinary popular favour. In this year he was elected Lord Rector of Glasgow University. At the same dinner "Monsieur Dumas" was present. There is no indication as to which of the eminent men of that name this guest was. Not improbably he was Jean Baptiste André Dumas, the distinguished French chemist who at this time held the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce in the French Ministry, and who took an active part in organising the French contributions to the first Great Exhibition of 1851. Another prominent Frenchman, M. Milne-Edwards, was also present at the same dinner. As already stated, he had been a visitor to the Club in 1836.

Sir Francis Thornhill Baring, who dined on March 8th, had been in the House of Commons for more than twenty years, during which period he filled a series of important public offices. At this time he was first Lord of the Admiralty. He was afterwards raised to the peerage as the first Baron Northbrook. The "Mr. Delane" who dined with the Club for the first time on November 22nd was doubtless the great editor of the *Times*. He dined frequently during the next few years, usually on the invitation of John Dickinson. Professor John Phillips, who was the guest of Professor Wheatstone on January 11th, had advanced in his career since 1835 (*ante*, p. 317). He was still the active and beaming assistant-secretary of the British Association. The Geological Society had awarded to him its highest honour—the Wollaston Medal, and he had been for several years professor of geology in Trinity College, Dublin. Four years had still to pass before he was finally transferred to Oxford, where he spent the last twenty years of his life.

1850. The Anniversary of 1850 took place on June 27, when there were present :

The Earl of Rosse, President

Marquess of Northampton	Lord Lyttelton
Lord Teignmouth	Sir George T. Staunton
Sir William Burnett	Professor Charles Wheatstone
Dr. Roget	Robert Edwards Broughton
John Disney	Hart Davis
Dr. Mayo	Lieut.-Colonel Leake
Samuel H. Christie	Charles Elliott
George Rennie	John C. Morris
John Dickinson	Dr. Charles Holland
Thomas Galloway	Robert Brown
Lieut.-Colonel Sabine	Dr. Paris
Thomas Bell	Captn. W. H. Smyth
	George Dollond

Joseph Smith, Treasurer

The expenses of the past year were stated to have amounted to £120 17s. 6d., leaving a surplus in the Treasurer's hands of £5 14s. 5d. The contribution for the ensuing year was again fixed at two pounds.

Seven members had not attended any meeting since the last Anniversary, but no vacancy was declared to arise. Archdeacon Jennings had died since the previous annual General Meeting, and the Dean of Hereford had resigned his membership of the Club. Two vacancies thus occurred, and a third had been left over from the previous year. There were two candidates on the list, and on a ballot Sir George Back was alone elected, leaving two vacancies for consideration at next Anniversary.

The new member, since he appeared at the Club in 1836, had received from the Royal Geographical Society in 1837 its two medals in recognition of the value of his services in the exploration of Arctic seas and lands. He was knighted in 1839 and the Royal Society elected him a Fellow in 1847.

The attendance this year was smaller than it had been for some years. Only 257 persons dined (221 members and 36 visitors), not a third of the number forty years before. But the reduced number of dinners may account for most of this diminution.

The practice of providing no dinners at Easter and Christmas was continued this year, also that of giving up the Club meeting on the day of the election of candidates at the Royal Society, and joining the general company of Fellows who dined together after the ballot.

A few foreigners of note attended the Club this year. Quetelet, the Belgian astronomer, was introduced by Professor Wheatstone on April 25th. He had been made a foreign member of the Royal Society in 1839. Joachim Barrande, the illustrious explorer of the Cambrian and Silurian rocks of Bohemia, was brought to the Club by his admiring friend Murchison on November 28. To the unwearied pioneer labours of this student of the Primordial Fauna and the unstinted liberality with which he published and distributed the results of his investigations the science of geology is deeply indebted. Two of the brothers Schlagintweit dined with the Club on December 12th, Hermann introduced by the Chief Baron Pollock and Adolf by Wheatstone. They had already attracted attention by their work on the physical geography of the Alps, which was published this year; their great Himalayan enterprise was still to come. Another foreign explorer, George Catlin, was introduced by Captain W. H. Smyth. With extraordinary enthusiasm this enterprising citizen of the United States had spent long years among the Indians of the Far West, studying their manners and customs, and painting large numbers of portraits of men of the various tribes. In 1841 he published in London what is now a classic volume on the North American Indians, wherein much is portrayed that has since vanished. His unique and valuable collection of more than 500 portraits painted from life is now preserved in the United States National Museum in Washington.

John Couch Adams was brought to the Club dinner on 10th January by Wheatstone. When little more than twenty years of age this brilliant genius had discovered the existence of the planet Neptune by a study of the irregularities of Uranus. Although Leverrier working independently anticipated him in the publication of the discovery,

his own countrymen had given him the fullest credit as actually the earliest to solve the problem. The Royal Society had awarded to him its Copley Medal and had elected him into the number of its Fellows. He was a Fellow and Tutor of St. John's College, Cambridge.

Sir John Richardson of Arctic fame was Murchison's guest on January 17th. Much had happened in the exploration of the polar regions since he last dined with the Club in 1829. His old chief, Franklin, had sailed once more into the Arctic seas, and nothing had been heard of him since. Richardson had himself in 1847 conducted an expedition in search of the lost explorer, from which he returned in 1849 without success.

1851. The Anniversary for the year 1851 took place on June 26, when twenty-one members were present, with the Earl of Rosse, President, in the chair. It was announced by the Treasurer that the expenses of the past year had amounted to £106 18s. and that there remained in his hands an unexpended sum of £1 18s. 5d. The contribution for the ensuing year was again made two pounds.

The death of Lord Bexley was reported. The vacancy thus caused in the membership, coupled with the two which were left over last year, made three places to be filled. There were three candidates on the list. Each was balloted for and all were declared elected, viz. Dr. Neil Arnott, Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie, and Sir Charles L. Eastlake. The first of these new members has been already noticed (p. 325). Sir Benjamin Brodie, famous as a surgeon, had specially distinguished himself by his scientific study of the profession. He had been elected into the Royal Society as far back as 1810, when he was only twenty-seven years of age, and the Society further testified its recognition of the value of his researches by awarding him next year the Copley Medal. He had been made a baronet in 1834, and President of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1844. A few years were still to elapse before he became President of the Royal Society. Sir Charles Eastlake, President of the Royal Academy, was elected into the Royal Society in 1838.

It was now an accepted practice of the Club that for two weeks at Easter, two weeks at Christmas and New Year, one week at Whitsuntide and one week at the date of the election of Fellows at the Royal Society, there should be no provision of dinners by the Club.

Among the guests one name arrests attention—Thomas Henry Huxley, introduced by Thomas Bell. He was at this time six-and-twenty, but had already made his mark by his memoir on the Medusa family, and was this year elected into the Royal Society. Captain John Henry Lefroy, who dined with the Club on January 9th, was an officer of the Royal Artillery specially noted for his magnetic surveys at St. Helena, in Canada and the boreal regions of North America. At the time of his visit to this country his work lay in Toronto. He had been elected into the Royal Society in 1848. Joseph Napier, M.P., who was the only guest on February 15, represented the Dublin University in Parliament, and was a member both of the English and the Irish bar. In 1858 he was appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland. He did his best to prevent the disestablishment of the protestant Church of Ireland, and when that measure was carried in 1869 he took an active part in the arrangements for the reconstruction of the Church. He was created a baronet in 1867 and from that year to his death in 1882 was Vice-Chancellor of Dublin University. On May 15th Admiral Beaufort introduced Captain Fitzroy, who was then known as the able commander of the *Beagle* in the hydrographical survey of Patagonia and the Straits of Magellan, and with whom Darwin as naturalist was enabled to carry out his fruitful researches during five years of active observation. He was this year elected into the Royal Society, and henceforward became widely known as an enterprising meteorologist. He was made chief of a Meteorological Department created in 1854, and he was the first to institute a system of weather forecasts and storm warnings.

It is deserving of remark that although this was the year of the first Great Exhibition, when London was a centre of attraction from all parts of the world, there is not the

least reference to the event in the records of the Royal Society Club, nor is there evidence of any greater influx of visitors than usual. On the contrary the attendance was rather below the average. The name of not a single foreigner is to be found in the Dinner-registers for the year. In the contemporary list of additions to the Fellows of the Royal Society no foreign members are included. The Society, however, was not unmindful of its position of honour in the world of science, for among the candidates for admission this year it selected three men each of whom was destined to be its President—William Thomson, George Gabriel Stokes, and Thomas Henry Huxley.

1852. In 1852 the Anniversary Meeting, held on June 24th, was attended by twenty-five members, the Earl of Rosse, President, in the chair. The Treasurer's statement showed that the expenses for the past year had amounted to £107 17s., leaving an unexpended balance of £8 7s. 5d. The contribution was fixed at two pounds.

The death was announced of four members since the last Anniversary—John G. Children, Charles König, Thomas Galloway, and George Dollond. No vacancies were declared for non-attendance. As two of the deceased members belonged to the *ex-officio* list only two vacancies remained to be filled. There were three candidates for admission; but instead of balloting, as had hitherto been the practice, it was agreed that each member should write two names on a slip of paper and that the names having a majority of votes should be declared elected. When the President had examined and read out the names it was found that the choice of the members had fallen on John Peter Gassiot and John Joseph Bennett. J. P. Gassiot has been already (p. 336) referred to. Besides his scientific attainments he possessed an excellent business capacity, which he placed at the service of the Royal Society and of the Club, to their great advantage. J. J. Bennett, as a botanist was put in charge of Sir Joseph Banks's herbarium and library when they were transferred to the British Museum in 1827. He retained this post until 1870. He was elected

into the Royal Society in 1841 and was Secretary of the Linnean Society from 1840 to 1860.

It may be remarked that at the Annual General Meetings the leniency shown to members who had not attended for more than twelve months had been increasing for some time. Year after year the Treasurer reports cases of members who have not appeared at any meeting for three, four or even five years and yet the Club cannot bring itself to "discontinue" them. Now and then when a member to whom the rule about non-attendance had been applied came back as a guest, he must have been surprised to find that a number of his fellow delinquents were still keeping their places in the Club.

Among the guests who dined with the Club during this year there were two of note as men of science. William Thomson, the future Lord Kelvin, came to the meeting on May 6th, invited by Lord Rosse. He had already given proofs of his genius by the extraordinary brilliance of his career at Cambridge. At the age of only two-and-twenty he had been chosen in 1846 Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Glasgow. But the great triumphs of his life were still to come. William Spottiswoode, who dined twice in the course of the year on the invitation of John Dickinson, had taken mathematical honours at Oxford and interested himself in physical researches, especially in the polarisation of light. In later years he joined the Club and in 1878 became its President, when he was elected President of the Royal Society. It is noteworthy that two of the future Presidents of the Society and of the Club, while still young men, were both visitors to the Club in the same year. Francis Sibson, also a visitor, was a well-known physician who led an active life in the medical and scientific society of London. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1849.

1853. The Anniversary was celebrated in 1853 on June 23, when nineteen members attended and the Earl of Rosse presided. According to the statement by the Treasurer the expenses for the past year had been £95 4s. 6d., leaving

in his hands a balance of £1 6s. 11d. The contribution for the succeeding year was fixed at two pounds.

No vacancies were announced either from death or non-attendance.

It was resolved that henceforth, during the months in which the meetings of the Royal Society were held, the dinners of the Club should be put on the table at six o'clock precisely, without waiting for further orders.

On November 30th at the election of the Council of the Royal Society, Thomas Bell resigned his Secretaryship and William Sharpey, M.D., was elected in his stead. Dr. Sharpey thus became entitled to take his place as an *ex-officio* member of the Club without being put to the ballot. Accordingly at the next meeting of the Club, his predecessor introduced him and formally proposed him for election. The proposal, supported by Colonel Sabine, was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Sharpey, one of the most genial and attractive members the Club ever possessed, studied medicine at Edinburgh and took his degree of M.D. there. But instead of entering upon the practice of the profession he had chosen, he went abroad in 1827, studied for the second time in Paris, and thereafter entered on a long pedestrian tour, in the course of which he spent three months in Switzerland, moved thence into Italy, passed the winter in Rome, Naples, and the Central provinces, returning by Bologna and Padua to Innsbruck, and spending the summer in Austria. He finally reached Berlin in August, and there for nine months he gave his whole time to the study of the human body. These early foreign journeys, made in large measure on foot, formed part of his education, and were the source of much of the charm of his talk. With his knapsack on his back, picking up acquaintance with fellow-travellers as he went and mixing in friendly converse with the natives, he stored up in his tenacious memory a fund of observation, anecdote, and incident which served to enliven many an evening at the Club. Returning to Edinburgh in the autumn of 1829, he began there to give systematic courses of lectures in

anatomy which were so fresh and vivid as to attract an increasing audience of students. At the end of four years the fame of these courses brought him in 1836 an invitation to fill the Professorship of Anatomy and Physiology in the University of London. He accepted the call, and brought new life into the teaching of his subject. He was the first to introduce the microscope as an aid to physiological study and exposition. He held the professorship for thirty-eight years, and during that long period, when the number of his students ranged from 100 to 350, he trained some of the ablest physiologists of the time. His pupils had for him the highest respect and esteem, and in many cases their relation was almost filial in affection. His talk was varied and interesting. One who knew him well has recorded that "his friends remember with delight the readiness with which, in the course of conversation, he could call up a desiderated quotation, or supply a fact on some doubtful point in history, philosophy or science, or tell humorously some anecdote which was equally apposite and amusing."¹

No eminent foreigners appeared among the visitors this year. The most notable Englishman was Viscount Palmerston, who dined on April 14th on the invitation of Sir George Staunton. He was at this time Home Secretary in the administration of Lord Aberdeen, whom two years later he succeeded as Prime-minister. Sir David Brewster, after an interval of forty-six years, was once more a visitor at the Club on April 21st by invitation of the President. During that interval most of the original scientific work of his life had been accomplished. He had thrown light on many branches of optics by original discoveries of his own, and had shown no little ingenuity in the invention of apparatus by which some of the laws of optics could be strikingly illustrated, as in the case of his invention of the kaleidoscope. Nor was he less remarkable for the earnestness with which he strove to promote the cause of scientific knowledge throughout the community. As an author of original communications in the Transactions of learned societies

¹ *Proc. Roy. Soc.*, vol. xxxi. (1881), p. xix.

and as editor and contributor to scientific and literary journals, he had been for many years indefatigably prolific. When in 1838 he received the dignified office of Principal of the University of St. Andrews, he obtained in that calm retreat, for more than a quarter of a century, the leisure which he put to so useful a purpose. Abundant proof had come to him of the respect and appreciation of his scientific contemporaries. The Royal Society in particular had bestowed upon him all the honours it could give. In 1815 it elected him one of its Fellows and awarded him its Copley Medal. Three years later it decerned to him the Rumford Medal and in 1830 one of the Royal Medals. He had seen the British Association, which he helped to found, grow into a powerful and beneficent institution for the advancement of science. There was work still in the future for him to do. He was yet to be the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of his Alma Mater, the University of Edinburgh. He died in the spring of 1868 at the ripe age of eighty-seven.

Captain Edward Augustus Inglefield, introduced by Admiral Beaufort, had been prominent in the search for Franklin among the Arctic seas. He was with the Fleet in the Black Sea during the Crimean war, and afterwards had commands in the Channel and the Mediterranean. His last sea appointment was that of commander-in-chief on the North American station. He reached the rank of admiral in 1879. Among the guests who had previously visited the Club General Monteith and Captain Young-husband reappeared, John Delane still enlivened the Club with his talk, and William Hopkins was again welcomed.

1854. The Anniversary Meeting in 1854 was held on June 22nd and was attended by twenty-two members, the Earl of Rosse, President, in the chair. The Treasurer reported that the expenses of the Club since the last Anniversary had amounted to £97, that he had a balance in his hands of £12 14s. 11d., and that there were no arrears of payment by the members. The question of non-attendance came up again for consideration. It appeared that five

members had not attended any meeting of the Club since the last Anniversary. Last year the number of defaulters was eight, yet no vacancies were declared in the case of any of them, and there was an increasing list of candidates for admission. It seemed desirable that something should be done, and one member of the Club proposed that a certain member who had not appeared for two years should be "discontinued." This was agreed to by the meeting. But the member selected for retirement was by no means the chief delinquent. Another defaulter had been absent for six years, and he was allowed to remain on the list of members. It is obvious that in a Club the definitely limited membership of which is much sought after, as shown by the list of candidates, the regulation as to non-attendance ought to be enforced, if not with absolute strictness, at least with some consideration for the candidates who are kept outside.

Five vacancies were declared, one owing to the death of Hart Davis, one to the "discontinuance" of a member for non-attendance, and three to the resignation of Sir George Back, Sir Francis Beaufort, and Sir William Burnett. These five places were duly filled by the election of Colonel William Henry Sykes, George Bishop, General William Monteith, John Percy, and Professor Thomas Graham.

Colonel Sykes was well-known for many years as member of Parliament for Aberdeen. In earlier life he had seen much service under the East India Company. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1834. George Bishop was another practical astronomer who built an observatory near his residence in Regent's Park. Entering the Astronomical Society in 1830 he became in succession its Secretary, Treasurer, and President. He was elected F.R.S. in 1848. General Monteith became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1845. John Percy took the degree of M.D. at Edinburgh in 1838, and was in practice for some time in Birmingham, but he soon abandoned the medical profession, and devoted himself to metallurgical studies. He was appointed Professor of Metallurgy in the new School of Mines which was

opened in 1851, and he acquired a leading position among the metallurgists of this country by his original work and his excellent volumes on the Metals. In his later years he was employed in supervising the ventilation of the Houses of Parliament, where many of the members used to visit him in his room and enjoy his racy talk. He became F.R.S. in 1847. Thomas Graham, eminent as an original discoverer in chemistry, which he taught first at the Andersonian College in Glasgow and afterwards at University College, London, was in 1855 appointed Master of the Mint, an office which he held till his death in 1869. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1836.

The few foreign guests of the Club this year were all gathered together on September 7th at the invitation of Lieut.-Colonel Sabine. The most notable of them was Heinrich Wilhelm Dove, the German meteorologist who did so much to place our conceptions of the movements of the atmosphere on a scientific basis. With happy forethought Colonel Sabine had invited Captain Fitzroy to be one of the party, and he included also Hermann and Adolf Schlagintweit. The host himself being a skilled physicist, we may be sure that there was much pleasant converse on atmospheric problems both on land and sea.

Colonel George Everest, who dined on March 23rd, had become widely known for his survey of Java and the work which he controlled as Surveyor-general of India. In recognition of his labours in that country the highest peak of the Himalayan chain, which is also the loftiest part of the earth's surface, was named Mount Everest after him. The Navy was well represented at the Club's table by Admiral Moresby and Sir Thomas Sabine Pasley. Literature too was not forgotten, for the novelist Samuel Warren was a guest, and John Delane continued to be a welcome visitor.

On November 30th this year there was again a change in the Presidentship of the Royal Society. Lord Rosse retired from the office which he had held for six years, and his place was taken by John, second Baron Wrottesley.



ADMIRAL WILLIAM HENRY SMYTH, F.R.S., 1826.

The new President, like his predecessor, a practical astronomer, studied the science by observation of the heavens at two small observatories which he had constructed, one at Blackheath and the other at Wrotesley. He had assisted in founding the Astronomical Society of which he was for ten years Secretary, afterwards President, and which in 1839 awarded to him its gold medal for a catalogue of stars. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1841. A change likewise took place in the Secretaryship of the Society owing to the resignation of Thomas Bell. Professor George Gabriel Stokes was now chosen Secretary. Two fresh *ex-officio* members were thus provided, if they chose to avail themselves of the position. The President at once intimated his willingness to become a member, though he did not attend any of the meetings until March 15th of the following year. Professor Stokes, living in Cambridge and busy there with his lectures and other calls on his time, having, moreover, his heavy secretarial duties for the Royal Society, preferred not to join the Club for the present. He continued to be Secretary of the Royal Society for more than thirty years and during that time it does not appear that he ever joined the Club. If he did so, it must have been temporarily during that interval of years of which the weekly registers have not survived. When he exchanged the Secretaryship for the Presidency of the Royal Society in 1885 he at once took his place in the Club as its President.

1855. At the Anniversary Meeting on 28th June 1855 there were present :

Lord Wrotesley, President	
Sir Benjamin C. Brodie	The Earl of Rosse
Colonel Leake	Sir Roderick I. Murchison
Professor Wheatstone	Dr. Roget
General Monteith	- Sir John Rennie
Dr. Mayo	Robert E. Broughton
Rev. Baden Powell	William H. Pepys
Dr. Daubeny	Dr. Charles Holland
John Dickinson	Colonel Sabine
Edward Hawkins	Thomas Bell
Robert Brown	Dr. Sharpey
Joseph Smith, Treasurer	

The Treasurer's annual statement showed that the expenses for the past year amounted to £97 15s. 6d., leaving in his hands an unexpended sum of £25 11s. 5d. The contribution for the year was again fixed at two pounds. The attendance since the last Anniversary had been 205 diners, composed of 174 members and 31 visitors.

By the death of Sir Robert H. Inglis a vacancy was created. Although six members had been absentees during the whole of the past year, and one or two of them for much longer periods, no vacancies were declared on the ground of non-attendance. Samuel H. Christie had resigned, but as he was an *ex-officio* member his retirement caused no vacancy in the ordinary membership. The single vacant place was filled by the election of Robert Stephenson, civil engineer, and the most famous bridge-builder of his day. He had been elected into the Royal Society in 1849.

The Treasurer of the Club, Joseph Smith, had four years before expressed his desire, on account of his health, to resign his office, which he held for the long space of a quarter of a century, but at the strongly expressed wish of the members he had consented to continue his services. At this Anniversary he addressed the company in words which he himself inserted in the minute-book and which may be quoted here : " I now make my bow, and in withdrawing from office, request the Club to accept my sincere and grateful thanks for the unvaried kindness and courtesy with which I have ever been treated ; and I have the satisfaction of being able to state that during the twenty-five years in which I have been in office, not one single circumstance has ever occurred to cast a shade over the pleasing retrospect which I shall ever retain, while life remains, of my connexion with the R.S. Club." Sir Benjamin Brodie moved and Sir Roderick Murchison seconded an expression to him of " their gratitude not only for the valuable services which during the last twenty-five years he has rendered them in his official capacity, but also for the kindness and urbanity which he has displayed in his intercourse with them on all occasions, and which have contributed so much

to the harmony and comfort of their social meetings." It should be added that the excellent Treasurer lived for nearly two years longer in his quarters at Gray's Inn, but was latterly unable to leave them owing to the infirmities of age. He died on 26th May 1857 at the age of eighty-three.¹

In succession to the Treasurership Dr. John Percy was now appointed.

The guests in the first half of this year included the 8th Duke of Argyll, who in addition to his political activities manifested much interest in scientific problems, and in later years contributed to their discussion by controversial papers and more especially by his "Reign of Law." Another visitor was Lieut.-Colonel Henry James, Director-General of the Ordnance Survey, who will be remembered for his introduction of photo-zincography into the reproduction of the Ordnance maps. Lord Hatherton dined on April 19th as the President's guest. He had been an active politician in his day and after the passing of the Reform Bill of 1832 he was appointed Chief Secretary for Ireland. But he had now retired from active public life.

Up to the period at which this narrative of the *Annals* of the Royal Society Club has arrived both the *Minute-books* of the annual General Meetings and the weekly dinner-registers have been preserved in continuous sequence, without any break from 1748. But at this point, while the Anniversary *Minute-books* remain, with their story complete up to the present time, the weekly registers suddenly fail. From the middle of the year 1855 to the 20th November 1879 no record of the weekly meetings is now to be found among the papers belonging to the Club.

This record of an interval of twenty-four years would fill several such volumes as were used for reporting the weekly meetings, but no trace of these can now be discovered. They must certainly have disappeared before the year 1892, for in the *Minutes* of the Anniversary meeting of that year a statement occurs in the handwriting of the

¹ *Proceedings of Linnean Society*, 1857, p. xxxvii.

Treasurer, R. H. Scott, which, enumerating all the archives of the Club that had just been deposited at the rooms of the Royal Society in Burlington House, expressly affirms that of the interval from June 28th 1855 to November 20th 1879 no dinner registers were then extant among the documents belonging to the Club. A letter has now been found among these documents, written by Sir George H. Richards (who was Treasurer from June 1878 till June 1888) to Robert H. Scott, who was elected early in 1885 to act as Treasurer in conjunction with him. The letter is dated 30th March, but without indication of the year. It was probably written about the time when Sir George resigned office and handed over all the documents to R. H. Scott, who then became senior Treasurer. It states that the writer was aware that there was a gap in the records, but that the break existed when the documents passed into his hands, and that the box and its contents were handed over by him just as he received them. It is thus fairly certain that the missing volumes were taken away some time before June 1878.

We are thus deprived of the chronicle of the weekly social gatherings of the Club, and the names of its guests for nearly a quarter of last century. Fortunately the Minutes of the Anniversary Meetings, at which almost all the administrative business of the Club was transacted, have been preserved. On these alone we have to rely in following the story of the Club during an eventful series of years when some of the members were taking a prominent part in the onward march of science, and when, among other conquests, the doctrine of evolution was first applied on a basis of scientific observation to the history of life upon this planet.

1856. At the written request of seven members a special meeting of the Club was held on March 6th 1856. It was attended by twenty members and Colonel Sabine took the chair. Sir Roderick Murchison moved and Sir Benjamin Brodie seconded the following resolution: "That the Royal Society Club shall continue to meet every week as usual, except on the third Thursday of each Calendar month during

the present session.”¹ This motion was adopted by the meeting. The Treasurer was instructed to prepare printed cards showing the days of meeting during the session, and to send two of these cards to each member. He was also directed to call the attention of members to Rule 6: “Any member who has not attended the Club at least *once* between, and exclusive of, the two Anniversary meetings shall no longer be considered a Member,” and to inform them that in the opinion of this meeting it was desirable that in future the rule should be strictly enforced.

The Anniversary Meeting of the Club for 1856, held on June 26, was attended by nineteen members, Lord Wrottesley, President, in the chair. The Treasurer’s statement showed that since the last Anniversary the expenses had been £87 12s. 6d. and that a balance of £17 18s. 5d. remained in his hands. One of the items of expenditure was the cost of the dinner of the Bakerian Lecturer, Professor Thomson, which it was resolved that the Club should pay for. The lecturer was the future Lord Kelvin, who took as the subject of his discourse “The Electrodynamical Qualities of Metals.” The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed at £2.

The death of Charles Elliott was intimated. Nine members had not attended any meeting for twelve months. Three of these members who had been absent for two years were “not re-elected”—viz. Richard Penn, John Barrow, and John G. Shaw-Lefevre. Letters of resignation were read from Colonel Sykes, Sir John F. W. Herschel, Edward Hawkins, Dr. Travers Twiss, and Sir George Staunton. A special message of sympathy on his retirement was sent to Sir George Staunton, the oldest member of the Club, which he had joined forty-four years ago.

¹ It may be inferred that this omission of one of the dinners in each month was intended to allow those members who belonged to the Philosophical Club to attend the monthly dinner of that Club. The third Thursday was altered at the Anniversary this year into the first Thursday. Owing to this diminution, combined with the cessation of meetings during the various recesses and the restriction of their number during the long vacation, the dinners were now reduced to not more than about twenty-four in the year.

Four vacancies were declared. These were filled by the election of Dr. Bence Jones, Rev. John Barlow, Warren De la Rue, and Dr. Acland.

It was resolved that dinners should be provided on the second Thursday of each month during the vacation and that the dinner should be omitted on the first Thursday of every month during the Society's session.

Henry Bence Jones, M.D., physician to St. George's Hospital, was widely known in his later years as the Secretary to the Royal Institution. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1846. The Rev. John Barlow had been elected into the same Society as far back as 1834. Warren De la Rue, a partner in his father's well-known firm of printers and ornamental paper-makers, was an ingenious mechanician to whom the invention of the first machine for making envelopes was due. He was fond of science and turned his inventive faculty to the devising of instruments for research. He devoted himself to astronomical studies and more especially to the application of photography to the registration of celestial objects. He constructed the heliograph at Kew for recording the daily changes on the surface of the sun, and was one of the students of sun-spots. He was elected President of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1864. He was likewise a chemist of great ability and originality, and his merit in this department was recognised by his chemical compeers, who twice elected him President of the Chemical Society. He became F.R.S. in 1850 and was awarded a Royal Medal in 1864. The genial physician Dr. Henry Acland has been already mentioned (p. 347).

1857. In 1857 the Anniversary Meeting took place on June 25th and was attended by twenty members, Archdeacon Burney in the chair. The Treasurer reported that his expenditure during the past year had amounted to £90 6s. and that he had a balance in his hands of £14 os. 5d.¹

¹ From a note in the Minute-book No. 3, p. 14, we learn that the number of dinners during the financial year which ended at this Anniversary was twenty-three, and the number of persons who dined was 175, being an average of 7.6 at each dinner.

The death of four members was announced—John Disney, Dr. Paris, William H. Pepys, and the late Treasurer Joseph Smith.

Letters of resignation were read from Dr. N. Arnott, John J. Bennett, and George Bishop. Nine members had attended no meeting since the previous Anniversary. Three of these resigned. Two sent a satisfactory excuse. Of the rest only one, John C. Morris, was "not re-elected." Eleven vacancies were now declared. The following candidates were balloted for and duly elected: Colonel Yorke, Dr. Arthur Farre, James Joseph Sylvester, Captain Charles Wright Younghusband, and Thomas Webster.

Lieut.-Colonel Philip James Yorke was educated at Harrow and joined the Scots Fusilier Guards. He was fond of Chemistry and one of the original members of the Chemical Society, of which in 1853 he was elected President. He became F.R.S. in 1849.

Arthur Farre, a prominent London physician, was Professor of Obstetric Medicine at King's College and Physician Extraordinary to Queen Victoria. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1839.

James Joseph Sylvester, one of the most distinguished mathematicians of his day, studied at St. John's College, Cambridge, and was second wrangler in 1837. Immediately after his brilliant college career he was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy at University College, London. In the course of a few years he was induced to accept the Professorship of Mathematics in the University of Virginia. But after four years in the United States he returned to this country, and for fifteen years taught mathematics at the military academy, Woolwich. In 1877 he was again led to accept an American professorship—the Chair of Mathematics at the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, where his great powers were much appreciated. But after six years he came back to England and became Savilian Professor of Geometry at Oxford—an appointment which he held till his death in 1897. His powers as algebraist and geometer could only be adequately appreciated by the

ablest mathematicians, but his friendly nature and his peculiarities of temperament appealed to a far wider circle. In his later years he took to writing English sonnets and led himself to believe that he could rival the majestic cadence of Milton, and would be remembered by his verse quite as much as by his mathematics.

Charles Wright Younghusband, Captain in the Royal Artillery, has been already mentioned as a visitor to the Club in 1847 and 1853. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1852.

Thomas Webster, Barrister, proposed by George Rennie and seconded by Sir John Rennie as a member of the Club, was elected into the Royal Society in 1847.

At the same Anniversary Meeting it was resolved that thenceforth the Meetings of the Club should be held in The Thatched House, St. James' Street, and the Treasurer was directed to confer with the Secretary of the Philosophical Club and arrange the dates of meeting, so that the two Clubs should not meet on the same day.

Lord Wrottesley was continued as President and Dr. Percy as Treasurer.

1858. The Anniversary Meeting in 1858 was held on June 24th. It was attended by twenty-four members and Dr. Burney presided. The Treasurer intimated that the expenses for the past year amounted to £95 18s. and the balance remaining in his hands was £4 12s. 5d. The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed at £2. The number of dinners during the financial year was 20, and the number of persons who dined was 215, being an average of 10·6 at each dinner.

The death of Robert Brown, princeps botanicorum, was intimated. Four members had not attended any meeting since the last Anniversary. Two of these, Lord Teignmouth and Lord Lyttelton, who had sent no explanation of their absence, were "not re-elected." The number of vacancies in the membership now amounted to twelve. As the result of a ballot of the candidates, Charles Brooke, William Bowman, Rowland Hill, Count Strzelecki, Professor W. Fergusson, and Warrington Smyth were declared duly elected.

On the motion of Sir Roderick Murchison seconded by Thomas Bell it was resolved that the *ex-officio* members, not actually holding office in the Royal Society, be transferred to the list of ordinary members. There were at this time five *ex-officio* members affected by this resolution—Thomas Bell, George Rennie, Dr. Roget, the Earl of Rosse and Admiral Smyth. By their transference to the ordinary list the number of vacancies was reduced to one.

It was arranged at this meeting that Dr. Bence Jones should be associated with Dr. Percy as joint-treasurer. A further resolution was adopted that Admiral Smyth should be requested to prepare a history of the Club from its commencement to the present time, the Treasurer being authorised to transfer to the Admiral all the Club documents in his custody.

A few words may be added here regarding the new members now elected. Charles Brooke was a surgeon of good standing in London with a fondness for meteorology. He invented some self-recording instruments. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1847. William Bowman has been already referred to when he came to the Club as a guest in 1844 (p. 341). His reputation as an ophthalmic surgeon and a man of science was now much increased. He was chosen in 1880 to be the first President of the Ophthalmological Society of the United Kingdom, and was created a baronet in 1884. He was for many years an active member of the Royal Institution and for some time its Treasurer. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1841.

Rowland Hill's high claim to the gratitude not of his own country only but of all civilised nations rests on his having invented adhesive stamps, and worked out the scheme of penny-postage. Appointed to the Post-office he took an active part in carrying his idea into practice, and had the satisfaction of seeing it thoroughly established in 1840. He received in his lifetime abundant acknowledgment of the far-reaching usefulness of his scheme. He was created K.C.B., and when he died in 1879 he was, as a public benefactor, buried in Westminster Abbey. The

Royal Society elected him one of its Fellows in 1857 and the following year he was chosen into the Club.

Count Paul Edmund de Strzelecki, of a noble Polish family, dedicated himself in 1838 to the scientific exploration of the interior of Australia, and spent several years in this enterprise. He published in 1845 a "Physical Description of New South Wales." He was elected into the Royal Society in 1853.

William Fergusson, one of the leading surgeons of his day, received his medical training at Edinburgh University, and practised in Scotland until in 1840 he was appointed Professor of Surgery at King's College, London. His important "System of Practical Surgery" appeared in 1842. In 1848 he was elected F.R.S. Created a baronet in 1866 he was in the following year appointed sergeant-surgeon to Queen Victoria. In 1870 he was chosen President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

Warrington Wilkinson Smyth has been already referred to as a visitor in 1847. He was appointed by De la Beche to teach Mining and Mineralogy at the School of Mines which was opened in 1851 in Jermyn Street. He became the highest authority in this country on the scientific search for minerals and methods of mining them. He was this year elected into the Royal Society. As Mineral Surveyor to the Duchy of Cornwall he exercised a powerful and useful influence on mining enterprise in that district when it was in full activity. In recognition of his public services he received in 1887 the honour of knighthood. He proved to be one of the most kindly, agreeable and entertaining members of the Club, and was greatly regretted when he died in 1890 at the age of 73.

On St. Andrew's Day this year Lord Wrottesley retired from the Presidential Chair of the Royal Society and Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie (p. 360) was chosen to succeed him. The new President was also elected Chairman of the Club.

1859. The Anniversary Meeting in 1859, held on June 24th, was attended by twenty-six members, and Sir Benjamin Brodie, as the new President, took the chair. The Treasurers

stated that the expenditure for the past year, including the cost of the Anniversary dinner of 1858, amounted to £126 16s. 9d. and that a balance of £3 12s. 4d. remained against the Club. The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed at two guineas. The number of dinners since the last Anniversary was 25, the total attendance was 309, of whom 49 were visitors. The average number of persons at each dinner was 12.36.

It was reported that three members had not been present at any meeting during the past year, only one of whom had explained the cause of his non-attendance. But as the other two were retired presidents, the members could not bring themselves to pass a sentence of "discontinuance" or "non-election" against them. There was only one vacancy and that was at once filled by the unanimous re-election of Lord Lyttelton (pp. 341, 376), whose name was proposed by Sir John Rennie and seconded by Admiral Smyth.

Sir Benjamin Brodie was formally elected President for the ensuing year and Dr. Percy and Dr. Bence Jones were continued as joint Treasurers.

1860. The Anniversary meeting in 1860 was held on July 5th, and the following was the attendance:

Sir Roderick Impey Murchison in the Chair

Lord Lyttelton	Thomas Graham
Dr. Roget	Dr. William Sharpey
Dr. Holland	Thomas Webster
John Dickinson	Dr. Arthur Farre
Charles Wheatstone	William Fergusson
J. J. Sylvester	Charles Brooke
Charles Daubeney	General William Monteith
Sir James C. Ross	Rev. John Barlow
John P. Gassiot	Dr. Bence Jones, Treasurer

Dr. John Percy, Treasurer

From the statement presented by the Treasurers it appeared that the total expenditure during the past year amounted to £164 5s. 10d., and that a balance against the Club remained to the amount of £50 1s. 10d. The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed at three pounds. The only absentee was a former President, who for two

years had not appeared at any of the meetings. But again the members would not enforce the regulation against him and he was "re-elected." The number of dinners held during the past year was 25, the number of persons who dined, 312. The average number at each dinner was 12·48, and the number of visitors 62.

The Club had lost by death four members since the last Anniversary—Robert E. Broughton, General Leake, Rev. Baden Powell, and Robert Stephenson. To the four vacancies thus caused a fifth was added by the resignation of Dr. Acland. These places were filled by the unanimous election of Sir Henry Rawlinson, William Fairbairn, Captain Galton, R.E., Sir William Armstrong, and Professor John Tyndall. At this meeting it was resolved that "the law regarding the mode of election be changed, and that instead of Candidates being balloted for in the order of their proposal, a list of Candidates be read at the Anniversary Meeting, from which each member present shall write down a name to fill each vacancy: that no person shall be deemed to be elected a member, unless he shall have three-fourths or more of the votes in his favour; and that a list of the Candidates shall be sent to each member of the Club previously to the Anniversary Meeting at which election shall take place."

The minutes reveal that a complimentary dinner was given by the Club on November 17th 1859, to which were invited Captain M'Clintock and the officers under him in the Arctic Expedition in search of traces of Sir John Franklin. These brave navigators had been rewarded by discovering relics of the Franklin expedition and obtaining authentic information of the death of Franklin in 1847. Franklin and his companions were found to have solved the problem of the North-west Passage.

The Treasurers reported further that at the request of the Club Admiral Smyth had prepared a History of the Club. The meeting accordingly instructed the Treasurers to have it printed at the expense of the Club in the manner they should judge desirable. It was decided that each member

should pay ten shillings towards the cost of printing the volume; and that each future member should receive a copy of the book and be required to pay for it the same sum so long as any copies remained to be disposed of. Any member might purchase a second copy at the same price. Twelve copies were presented to Admiral Smyth with the thanks of the Club for preparing the History, and thirteen copies were placed in the hands of the Treasurers for distribution as they might think fit. It was to be understood that the subscription of £3 that had been arranged for the expenses of the ensuing year would cover the contribution of ten shillings towards the cost of printing the book.

The new members added to the Club at this Anniversary formed a remarkable group of men. Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson was a notable representative of the literary side of modern civilisation. As a lad of seventeen he joined the East India Company's army and served for some years in Persia, where he helped to organise the Persian army. While acquiring a sound knowledge of the language of the country, he found time to study the cuneiform inscriptions, and from the trilingual inscription of Darius Hystaspes on the rock at Behistun he eventually succeeded in discovering the key to the inscription, and to publish a translation. He was hailed as the "Father of Assyriology." In 1840 he was appointed political agent at Kandahar and greatly distinguished himself in the Afghan war. A few years later he was transferred to Turkish Arabia and thence to Mesopotamia, where he was made British Consul at Baghdad. After he returned to England in 1855, he entered Parliament and remained there for some years. He took an active interest in various societies and institutions. He was made a member of the India Council, a baronet, President of the Royal Geographical Society and afterwards of the Royal Asiatic Society. He contributed many papers to the publications of these Societies, and his separate works on the cuneiform inscriptions and history of Assyria are classics in the subject of which they treat. Sir Henry

lived till 1895, when he had nearly completed his eighty-fifth year.

William Fairbairn's career was a remarkable example of how inborn genius, indomitable courage, and unwearied perseverance can conquer what might seem insuperable obstacles. Born at Kelso of humble parentage, he apprenticed himself to an engine-wright at North Shields. There he spent his leisure hours in studying mathematics and enlarging the education which a Scottish parish school had given him. As soon as he saw his opportunity he began business for himself in a small way at Manchester. He had formed a clear belief that iron could be advantageously substituted for wood and stone in many constructions, and he began by making this substitution in the shafting of cotton mills. He was one of the earliest to foresee that iron might replace wood in the building of ships, and he built many iron vessels in works which he set up at Millwall. He also perceived that iron could be effectively used instead of stone in the construction of bridges, and he astonished the world by the way in which he carried out the suggestion first put forward by Robert Stephenson of bridging the Menai Strait with an iron tube. The success of this construction, and the advantage of wrought-iron girders which he first introduced, brought him a vast accession of business. The practical benefits which he thus introduced into engineering work were widely appreciated. The Royal Society elected him one of its Fellows in 1850. He was chosen President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1854, and had honorary degrees conferred on him by more than one university. He was elected President of the British Association at Manchester in 1861, and created baronet in 1869.

Captain Douglas Strutt Galton, educated at Rugby and Woolwich, joined the Royal Engineers, in which service he became Captain in 1856. His practical knowledge of engineering led to his being placed on successive Royal Commissions of enquiry. He filled several public offices, being for some years Assistant Under-Secretary for War, and afterwards

Director of Public Works and Buildings. He took much interest in questions of sanitation. For many years he was one of the secretaries of the British Association, an office which in 1895 he exchanged for that of President. He was elected F.R.S. in 1859, and received the honour of K.C.B. in 1887. He was the active Treasurer of the Club from 1867 to 1878.

Sir William George Armstrong was another illustrious inventive engineer. At first he took to law and was a partner in a legal firm in Newcastle, but his mechanical bent drew him into the engineering centre of the north. He devised one invention after another, including the hydraulic engine, the hydraulic crane, the hydro-electric machine, and the hydraulic pressure accumulator. Subsequently he was led to turn his attention to the construction of cannon, with the result that he entirely revolutionised the making of guns of all kinds. He formed the barrel of successive coils of wrought-iron thoroughly welded together round a cylindrical rod, and the breech was correspondingly strengthened. The Armstrong gun soon superseded every earlier construction. His invention of rifle-bored breech-loading cannon and all his other inventions he freely offered to the nation. The works of Elswick under his supervision grew rapidly in size and importance. In addition to the manufacture of ordnance, as well as of many peaceful kinds of mechanism, the construction of ships of war was eventually undertaken by his firm, which thus became one of the chief centres in the world for the manufacture of naval and military iron-work of every kind. Sir William Armstrong's great services were in the end fully recognised by his fellow-countrymen, even including torpid and reluctant officialdom. It is enough to mention here that besides the medals, honorary degrees, presidentships and other tokens of respect conferred on him, his eminence was recognised by the Royal Society as early as 1846, when it elected him one of its Fellows, many years before the date of the inventions with which his name is generally associated. He was knighted in 1859 and in 1887 he was made a peer. He died in 1900 at the age of ninety.

John Tyndall, at the time when he became a member of the Club, had been for seven years Professor of Natural Philosophy at the Royal Institution, where he had established his reputation as a brilliant lecturer and one of the most popular exponents of science in his day. He had already published papers on magnetism and other subjects, but the main body of his work was still to be done in the years that lay before him. The Royal Society, however, had elected him a Fellow in 1852 while he was still teacher of mathematics at Queenwood College, Hampshire. In 1860 he succeeded George Gabriel Stokes as Professor of Physics at the Royal School of Mines, where he had his friend Huxley as one of his colleagues. With Huxley he embarked on his investigations into Glacier motion, and returning to the Alps year after year he enriched the literature of the subject with some picturesquely written volumes.

1861. At the Anniversary Meeting on 27th June 1861 there were twenty members present, and General Sabine took the chair. The Treasurers informed the meeting that the expenses of the past year amounted to £153 13s. 10d. and that there was an adverse balance of £23 18s. 10d. To this debt there had to be added the cost of printing the History of the Club, which was £46 2s., so that the total sum due by the Club was £70 os. 10d. "It was resolved that hereafter each visitor be charged fifteen shillings for dinner instead of ten as heretofore."¹ The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed at three pounds. Resignations were received from George Rennie, Thomas Bell and Sir Henry Rawlinson. Lord Rosse was transferred to the *ex-officio* list.

Four vacancies were declared, and these were filled by the election of John Lubbock, William Allen Miller, Dr. Edward Frankland, and William Spottiswoode.

¹ In the minutes of this Anniversary Meeting it is stated that "Each visitor has cost the Club about 7 shillings, that is £18 4/." It would thus appear that visitors had still to pay for their dinner, and that the charge to them was now not far below the cost to each member of the Club, which, including annual subscription, was about seventeen shillings.



GENERAL SIR EDWARD SABINE, K.C.B., F.R.S., 1818.

President, R.S., 1861-1871.

The Treasurers announced that they had received notice that the building of The Thatched House Tavern was about to be pulled down. They were accordingly instructed to provide another suitable place of meeting.

The number of dinners held during the past year was twenty-four, which were attended by 293 persons, of whom 52 were visitors, the average attendance at each dinner being 12·2.

The new members were all men of note in the scientific society of their day. John Lubbock, banker, naturalist, antiquary, archaeologist, geologist, member of parliament and politician, came to be one of the busiest and most versatile men of his time. Beginning in his father's banking-house when he was a lad, he retained his active interest in its affairs up to the end of his long life. His capacity for business led to his being recognised as one of the leading men in the financial life of London. At the same time in his country home he studied and described the habits of ants and bees and the relations of flowers, fruits and leaves to insect life. He was one of the earliest writers who marshalled the evidence from existing savage races in explanation of the history and habits of primitive man. He travelled with a geological eye for the origin of the varying aspects of scenery. And besides this wide range of intellectual outlook he was a busy politician in and out of parliament. He was a member of many successive Commissions for improving the condition of the country, especially in relation to education. To him we chiefly owe the Bank Holidays Act, the Shop Hours Act and other important and beneficent legislation. He succeeded to his father's baronetcy in 1865 and was raised to the peerage in 1900 with the title of Lord Avebury. An active and influential member of many learned societies, he took a keen interest in the advance of science, and was ever ready to help with his advice and experience. He played also a worthy part in the social life of London. He was one of the last men who kept up the time-honoured custom of giving breakfasts in his town-house. And there were not

many gatherings in London where so varied and pleasant a company was welcomed by so kindly and accomplished a host. At the time of his election into the Royal Society he was only twenty-four years of age and his admission into the Club came three years later. There then lay before him more than half a century of the most varied activity and usefulness.

William Allen Miller, M.D., Professor of Chemistry at King's College, London, was not only an able chemist but one of the early students of spectrum analysis. He was associated with Huggins in the investigation of the spectra of the stars, whereby the presence of known terrestrial elements was first detected in the stellar universe. He became F.R.S. in 1845.

Edward Frankland took a high place among the English chemists of his day. He studied in his youth, together with John Tyndall, under Bunsen at Marburg, and from that University obtained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. His early work gained for him the Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1853 and a Royal Medal in 1857. He held successively the position of Professor of Chemistry at various institutions until in 1865, succeeding Hofmann, he was appointed to the Chair of Chemistry in the Normal School of Science at South Kensington, now the Imperial College of Science and Technology, where he remained in activity for twenty years, retiring in 1885. He was President of the Chemical Society in 1871-3 and of the Institute of Chemistry from 1877 to 1880. In recognition of his public services he was made K.C.B. in 1897. He died in 1899 at the age of seventy-four.

William Spottiswoode, a future President of the Royal Society, has been already referred to (p. 363).

Sir Benjamin Brodie was re-elected President of the Club at the Anniversary Meeting this year, but the state of his health was becoming precarious, and he had been unable to be present at any of the meetings of the Club during the past year. He resigned his presidentship of the Royal Society on 30th November, 1861, having

held the office for three years.¹ The Royal Society elected as his successor General Edward Sabine, and the Club, which had enjoyed the presence and assistance of that active member for many years, now gladly welcomed him as its President.

¹ He died on 21st October, 1862.

CHAPTER XII

PRESIDENTSHIPS OF SIR EDWARD SABINE, SIR GEORGE
BIDDELL AIRY, AND SIR JOSEPH DALTON HOOKER,
1861-1878

SIR EDWARD SABINE was seventy-three years of age when he was chosen President of the Royal Society, and he held the office for ten years. He brought to the discharge of its duties a wide experience of men, a long familiarity with official life, and a high reputation as a man of science. He had seen much active service both in the Army and the Navy. As a captain of Royal Artillery he had taken part in the Niagara frontier campaign of 1814, and as astronomer attached to Ross's Expedition in 1818 and to Parry's in 1819, he had shared in the hardships and excitement of Arctic research. His attention had then been especially drawn to the problems of magnetism. Between 1821 and 1827 he made a number of voyages to different latitudes for the purpose of instituting pendulum and magnetic observations. He took part in a magnetic survey of the British Islands, and he discussed the distribution of magnetism over the globe. To him it was in no small degree owing that the science of Terrestrial Magnetism was established. His scientific attainments were called into use in other directions. Thus in 1825 he and John Frederick Herschel were appointed joint-commissioners with the French geodesists to determine the difference of longitude between the observatories of Greenwich and Paris. He served for nearly twenty years as effective Secretary of the British Association, and in 1852

was the President. Sir Edward's connection with the Royal Society was long and intimate. He was elected a Fellow as far back as 1818, when he was thirty years of age and had already shown his worth by his Arctic observations. Three years later he and his friend and associate Herschel received the Copley Medal, and in 1849 a Royal Medal was awarded to him. In 1827 he was chosen as one of the Society's Secretaries. Having retired from this office, he was again called into the Society's service and remained in it without a break for twenty-six years, first as Foreign Secretary from 1845 to 1850, next as Treasurer from 1850 to 1861, and lastly as President from 1861 to 1871. His relations with the Club were not less close. He became a member in 1822, and soon afterwards, on the illness and death of the Treasurer, he was appointed to the vacant office. He then succeeded in putting the affairs of the Club on a sound footing, and ever after continued to take an active interest in its prosperity.

1862. The Anniversary Meeting of 1862, held on June 26th, was attended by twenty-one members, General Sabine presiding. The Treasurers reported that the expenditure of the Club since the last Anniversary had amounted to £171 11s. 10d., and that there was a deficit of £34 3s. 9d. From their statement it appears that when the Thatched House Tavern was no longer available they had found suitable accommodation at St. James' Hall. The number of dinners held during the year was nineteen, attended in all by 211 persons, including 37 visitors. The average number of persons at each dinner was 11.1. The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed at two guineas.

The death of Admiral Sir James Clark Ross was announced. General Monteith had intimated the resignation of his membership.

There were three vacancies. Out of the list of five candidates Professor Alexander William Williamson and George Busk were elected.

Dr. Bence Jones resigned his Treasurership, and Dr. Sharpey was elected in his place to act in concert with Dr. Percy.

Of the new members, A. W. Williamson was Professor of Chemistry at University College, London—an office which he held for nearly forty years. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1855. In 1873 he was chosen Foreign Secretary and held that office for sixteen years. A Royal medal was awarded to him in 1862 in recognition of the value of his researches. He was twice President of the Chemical Society, and President of the British Association when it met at Bradford in 1873.

George Busk was an accomplished man of science who placed his wide range of knowledge at the service of every earnest student. He had studied medicine at St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas' Hospitals, and served as a surgeon in the Navy. He became F.R.S. in 1850, and received a Royal Medal in 1871. He was elected President of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1871, President of the Anthropological Institute in 1873, and Treasurer of the Royal Institution in 1873. This last office he usefully filled for more than a dozen years.

1863. At the Anniversary Meeting held on 25th June 1863 twenty members were present and General Sabine, President, filled the chair. The Treasurers left a blank page for the insertion of their financial statement, which however, has never been added. We gather from the minutes that twenty-one dinners had taken place during the year, that the number of persons who dined was 184, including 35 visitors, and that the average number attending each dinner was 8.8. The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed at two guineas, and it was resolved that the cost of the dinner for visitors should be reduced from fifteen to ten shillings each.

It was decided that during the autumn-vacation dinner should be provided on the third Thursday of each month.

By the death of James Walker and Sir Benjamin Brodie two vacancies were created. Two more arose from the resignation of Admiral Smyth and Dr. Mayo and a fifth had been left over unfilled last year. As the result of the election John Frederic Bateman, Sir Edmund Walker

Head, James Fergusson and Joseph Hodgson were made members.

John F. Bateman was an eminent civil engineer, more especially employed in providing water-supply to cities and towns, both at home and abroad. The water-works for Manchester and Glasgow were carried out by him. He was President of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1878-9 and was elected into the Royal Society in 1860.

Sir Edmund Walker Head, Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, succeeded to the baronetcy in 1838. He was appointed Governor of New Brunswick in 1847 and Governor-General of Canada in 1854—an office which he held till 1861.

James Fergusson, born in Ayr in 1808, spent his youth in India as an indigo-planter, and had then an opportunity of examining the ancient rock-cut temples and other architectural monuments of Hindustan, about which he published in 1845 a well-illustrated work. He was led to a prolonged study of architecture as an art, and wrote a handbook on the subject which was eventually expanded into his great "History of Architecture in all Countries from the Earliest Times to the Present Day." He also devoted his attention to fortifications, and had the prescience to recommend the construction of earthworks rather than masonry in the erection of forts. He lived in his later years in Rome, where he was one of the best-known of the English community there. His Handbook for Rome in Murray's series was the best guide to that city, and he kept his narrative up to date in successive editions. He was elected into the Royal Society on June 4th this year, just three weeks before he was chosen into the Club.

Joseph Hodgson, surgeon, became a Fellow of the Royal Society as far back as 1831. He appears to have lived and practised in Birmingham, but his published medical work led to his being elected President of the Medico-Chirurgical Society in 1851, and the year after his admission as a member of the Club he was chosen to be President of the Royal College of Surgeons.

1864. The Anniversary Meeting held on 23rd June 1864 was attended by seventeen members, with General Sabine, President, in the chair. The Treasurers stated that the expenses of the past year amounted to £112 13s. 6d. and that there was a balance of £13 6s. 4d. against the Club. The subscription for the following year was fixed at £2 10s. It was ordered that, as before, a dinner should be provided on the third Thursday of each month during the vacation. The number of dinners which had been held since the last Anniversary was 21, the total number of persons who dined was 279, of whom 56 were visitors, the average number of persons at each dinner being 12·68.

The new members elected at this meeting were Sir Henry Holland, Bart., and Sir John Dalrymple Hay, Bart.

Since he was a visitor to the Club in 1812 Dr. Henry Holland had risen into the first rank of the physicians of his day, had continued to travel abroad during vacation time, and had not only written valuable notes on medical matters, but had published volumes on his "Travels in Albania and Thessaly," and Essays on scientific subjects. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1815, created a baronet in 1853, and chosen President of the Royal Institution in 1865, an office which he held till his death in 1873. It was during these later years that he wrote his delightful volume of "Recollections of Past Life," from which quotations have been given in preceding chapters.

Admiral the Right Honourable Sir John Charles Dalrymple Hay, G.C.B., entered the Navy when he was thirteen, and in his earlier years saw much active service afloat and on shore. In 1849 when he was eight-and-twenty he directed the operations against two different pirate fleets in Chinese waters, and destroyed them both. For this important conquest he received the thanks of the Admiralty and a service of plate from the merchants in China. He commanded the *Hannibal* in the Black Sea at the time of the Crimean war and was present at the bombardment and fall of Sebastopol. He afterwards went into Parliament for some years. He retired from active service in 1870,

and when not looking after his ancestral estate in Galloway, was a conspicuous and much respected figure in London society. He took a keen interest in the various institutions with which he was associated. Having been elected into the Royal Society in 1864 he attended the meetings of the Society, and was one of the most assiduous members of the Club, often presiding at its dinners, always with singular dignity and charm.

1865. The Anniversary Meeting in 1865 was held on June 22nd and the following members were present :

General Sabine, President

Colonel Yorke	Sir Henry Holland
Dr. W. A. Miller	Professor Sylvester
J. P. Gassiot	Dr. Charles Daubeny
Dr. C. Holland	Warren De la Rue
William Fergusson	Dr. A. Farre
Sir William Armstrong	John Tyndall
Sir John Rennie	Dr. Bence Jones
Charles Wheatstone	John Dickinson
Charles Brooke	Joseph Hodgson
	Mr. Bowman

John Percy and William Sharpey, Treasurers

The financial statement by the Treasurers showed that the expenditure during the past year amounted to £121 12s. 7d., leaving a balance of £6 9s. 5d. in their hands. The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed at two guineas. The number of dinners held since the last Anniversary was 21, the number of persons who dined was in all 274, including 46 visitors, the average number at each dinner being 13. It was again agreed to have meetings on the third Thursday of July, August and October.

There was but one vacancy, which was filled by the election of Francis Sibson. This new member, after practising for some years as physician and surgeon in Nottingham, settled in London and took there the degree of M.D. in 1848. Next year he was elected into the Royal Society. He was an active member of the College of Physicians and was successively Gulstonian, Croonian and Lumleian lecturer. He also took much

interest in the proceedings of the Senate of London University, of which he was a member. His contributions to medical science were of value, and were gathered together some years after his death and published in a collected edition. In the course of two years after his admission into the Club he was chosen one of its two Treasurers, and filled this office for nine years until his death in 1876.

1866. At the Anniversary Meeting held on June 28th 1866 there were present twenty-one members, and General Sabine presided. The Treasurers submitted their financial statement for the past year, which showed the expenditure to have been £99 13s. 7d., leaving a balance in hand of £6 9s. 10d. The subscription for the following year was fixed at two guineas. The number of dinners since last Anniversary had been 22, attended in all by 276 persons, of whom 57 were visitors, the average number at each dinner being 12.5. The autumn dinners were again fixed for the third Thursday of July, August and October.

There was one vacancy caused by the resignation of Captain Younghusband. It was filled by the election of Francis Galton.

This accomplished man of science was born in 1822. In his youth he studied medicine at the Birmingham Hospital and King's College, London, and graduated from Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1844. Soon thereafter he began to travel as a scientific observer and explorer, first in Northern Africa, and then, extending his journeys in the Dark Continent, he in 1850 visited tracts in South Africa that were then unknown to Europeans. He published his observations in that region in his "Narrative of an Explorer in Tropical South Africa." This work and his admirable volume on the "Art of Travel" showed him to be full of practical wisdom and resource as a traveller, and his directions and suggestions have been of great value to subsequent explorers. For many years he devoted himself with much zeal to the development of meteorology as an observational science, and was a most active and useful member of the Meteoro-

logical Committee of the Board of Trade, and subsequently of the Meteorological Office. With equal energy he in his later years pursued an investigation of heredity, and produced volume after volume, in which, marshalling the facts which he laboriously accumulated, he indicated the conclusions to which they pointed. He thus became the founder of the modern, and to the human race most important, science of Eugenics. His true place in the bed-roll of science was perhaps hardly recognised in his lifetime. The Royal Society indeed, which he joined in 1860, awarded him a Royal Medal in 1886, and was just in time before his death to bestow on him the Copley Medal on 30th November 1910. The unexpected honour of knighthood was also conferred on him shortly before the close of his life. These marks of appreciation cheered the last months of his long and laborious career. Towards the end he suffered much from asthma, and found the air of the Haslemere district best suited for that distressing ailment. He died there in 1911, aged 89.

1867. The Anniversary Meeting of 1867 took place on June 27th and was attended by twenty members, General Sabine being in the chair. The two Treasurers are recorded as having been of the company and to have "submitted the following statement of the accounts of the Club." But, as in 1863, the space which they reserved for the "Statement" remains still blank as they left it. They both tendered their resignation at this meeting, and Captain Galton, R.E., and Dr. Sibson were elected in their stead. The subscription for the following year was again fixed at £2 2s. Seven absentees were reported. The absence of five of them was condoned, but Dr. Frankland and Sir John Lubbock were not re-elected. The number of dinners since the previous Anniversary was 22; 236 members and 50 visitors attended them, the average number at each dinner being 14. The same arrangement of autumn dinners as in recent years was adopted.

There was a list of no fewer than thirteen candidates waiting for election. It was accordingly proposed and

unanimously accepted that the number of ordinary members of the Club should be increased by five.

There were seven vacancies to be filled, and the result of the voting was that John Hawkshaw, the Earl of Caithness, Sir William Erle, Sir William Bovill, Richard Partridge, Edward William Cooke, and Colonel William James Smythe were elected.

John Hawkshaw, civil engineer, was especially eminent in connection with railways and bridges. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1855, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1862-3, knighted in 1873, and President of the British Association at the second meeting at Bristol in 1875.

James, 14th Earl of Caithness, had a taste for science and made some inventions, including a steam carriage and a gravitating compass. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1862.

The Right Honourable Sir William Erle, Fellow of New College, Oxford, was a barrister of the Middle Temple who entered Parliament in 1837 as member for the city of Oxford. He became Lord Chief Justice of Common Pleas in 1859 but retired from that office in 1866. Next year he was made a member of the Royal Commission on Trades' Unions, and a year or two later he published a treatise on the law relating to these Unions. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1860. He died in 1880 at the age of eighty-seven.

Sir William Bovill, another barrister of the Middle Temple, entered Parliament as member for Guildford. After being Solicitor-General he succeeded Sir William Erle as Lord Chief Justice. He became F.R.S. 1867. He died in 1873 at the age of fifty-nine.

Richard Partridge, an able Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, was elected into the Royal Society as far back as 1837. He was now in the 62nd year of his age.

Edward William Cooke, a genial Royal Academician, whose landscapes every year were remarkable for the faithfulness and beauty of their minute detail, and who used to amuse

his leisure hours in constructing models of new types of animals by joining the parts of one to the trunk of another of totally different grade and aspect. By working with shells, crustacea and other forms having hard parts he formed a strange collection of ludicrous monstrosities. Whether it was owing to the fidelity with which he reproduced nature on his canvas, to the humour and skill of his creations of impossible creatures, or to the charm of his society was not publicly divulged by the Fellows of the Royal Society when on June 4th 1863 they elected him a Fellow.

Colonel William James Smythe, an officer of Royal Artillery, took part in the Kaffir war of 1835, and after years of various service was sent in 1859 to Fiji in order to report to the British government whether it was desirable to accept the offer of the islands by King Thakombau and chiefs. His wife accompanied him, and in 1864 they published their experiences in a volume entitled "Ten months in Fiji Islands." Colonel Smythe in his official report recommended that the offer should be declined and in 1862 the Government took his advice. Other counsels, however, ultimately prevailed and the islands were finally annexed to the British crown in 1874. He became F.R.S. in 1864.

1868. The Anniversary Meeting of 1868 took place on June 25th, was attended by twenty-eight members and was presided over by General Sabine. The Treasurers reported that the expenditure since the last Anniversary amounted to £102 8s. and that they had in hand a balance of £13 os. 8d. The subscription for the following year was fixed at £2 2s. The number of dinners during the past year was 22, attended by 307 persons, of whom 62 were visitors, being an average of 14 at each dinner. It was resolved that this year dinners during the vacation should be provided on 23rd July, 3rd September, and 22nd October.

The President proposed and the Club unanimously agreed that all members of the Club who attain the age of eighty should be made Honorary Members of the Club. In accordance with this resolution John Dickinson, Sir

Frederick Pollock, and Dr. P. M. Roget were elected Honorary Members.

There were four vacancies. Out of the nine candidates on the list the Earl of Rosse, Thomas Archer Hirst, General John Henry Lefroy, and Dr. William Odling were elected.

Laurence Parsons, Fourth Earl of Rosse, was the son and heir of the astronomer Earl who died in 1867. He inherited his father's love of science and was elected into the Royal Society in 1867. He fostered the higher education in Ireland, was Chancellor of Dublin University, president of the Royal Dublin Society and afterwards of the Royal Irish Academy. He kept up the Observatory established by his father at Parsonstown.

Thomas Archer Hirst, an eminent mathematician, was Professor of Physics and subsequently of pure mathematics at University College, London. In 1873 he was appointed Director of Naval Studies at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. A Royal Medal was awarded to him by the Royal Society in 1883.

General Lefroy has been already referred to as a visitor to the Club in 1851. Since that time he had been appointed Inspector-general of army schools and afterwards Director-general of Ordnance. He retired from the Army in 1870. His public service, however, was not at end, for in the following year he was made Governor and Commander-in-chief of the Bermudas—an appointment which he retained till 1877, when he received the order of K.C.M.G. Still another office awaited him. In 1880 he was appointed Governor of Tasmania and held that position for two years. He died in 1890 at the age of seventy-three.

Dr. Odling, Fellow of Worcester College, Oxford, was for four years from 1868 Fullerian Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Institution. At the end of that period he obtained the Waynflete chair of Chemistry, which he filled for forty years, only retiring in 1912 to enjoy the rest to which his long labour in teaching entitled him. He is the oldest but one of all the Fellows of the Royal Society, having been elected as far back as 1859.

1869. At the Anniversary Meeting on 24th June 1869 there were twenty members present, and the President, General Sabine, was in the chair. The statement of the Treasurers of the financial position of the Club showed that the expenses for the past year had amounted to £107 2s. and there remained a balance in hand of £29 14s. 8d. The subscription for the following year was fixed at £2 2s. The number of dinners during the past year was 21, attended by 315 diners, of whom 64 were visitors, the average at each dinner being 15 persons.

General Sabine and Sir Henry Holland having both attained the age of eighty were elected Honorary Members.

The death of Joseph Hodgson was announced. The resignations of Dr. Bence Jones and Dr. Charles Holland were accepted. The transference of Sir Henry Holland to the Honorary List made a vacancy in the ordinary membership. There were thus four vacancies and nine candidates. As the result of the voting the following gentlemen were elected members: Thomas Henry Huxley, Captain George Henry Richards, R.N., Frederick Augustus Abel, and Lieut.-Colonel Alexander Strange.

The dates of the dinners during the vacation were fixed to be the second Thursday in July, the second Thursday in August, and the third Thursday in October.

Eighteen years had passed since Huxley first dined as a visitor to the Club. In this interval he had firmly established his reputation as one of the leading naturalists, one of the most impressive lecturers, and one of the most incisive writers of his day. In 1854 he succeeded Edward Forbes at the Royal School of Mines and Geological Survey, and drew students from far and near to listen to his admirable expositions of biological facts and problems. He wrote many papers on organisms recent and fossil, which appeared in the Memoirs of the Survey and in publications of scientific societies. Possessing an excellent literary style he proved himself to be a controversialist of exceptional power. His business capacity was not less marked than his critical faculty in science. He was accordingly nominated

on many Royal Commissions, as well as on boards and councils of societies. His election into the Royal Society took place in 1851. Next year one of the Royal Medals was awarded to him. He was made one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society in 1872, and elected President in 1883. The Copley Medal was adjudged to him in 1888. His connection with the Jermyn Street Museum and its staff of teachers and surveyors led him to give much close attention to geological problems. In the midst of his busy life he found time to be for four years one of the Secretaries of the Geological Society. At the time of his election into the Club he was President of that Society, and was illuminating its *Quarterly Journal* with his brilliant and suggestive addresses. His labours in the cause of education were unceasing, not only as himself an admirable teacher, but now as a member of the London School-board, now as a Royal Commissioner on Scientific Instruction, on the College of Science in Ireland, and on the Scottish Universities. His health, never robust, was further enfeebled by his untiring zeal for the good of the community. He was compelled to spend the last ten years of his strenuous life in the retirement of the retreat which he had built for himself by the sea at Eastbourne. He died in 1892 in the seventy-first year of his age.

Captain George Henry Richards rose through the successive steps of promotion in the navy until he became Vice-Admiral in 1870. Among his services he commanded the *Assistance* in the search for Franklin in the years 1852-4. The Royal Society elected him a Fellow in 1866. He was created K.C.B., and in 1878 he was chosen as one of the Treasurers of the Club, an office which he filled with conspicuous success for ten years.

Frederick Augustus Abel was eminent as a chemist, specially devoted to the study of explosives. His knowledge of this subject led to his being given important duties under the War Office, to which he was appointed chemist. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1860. His public services were rewarded by his being made successively C.B., K.C.B., and a baronet.



CAPTAIN SIR DOUGLAS STRUTT GALTON, K.C.B., R.E., F.R.S., 1859.

One of the Treasurers of the Club, 1867-1878.

Lieut.-Colonel Alexander Strange joined the Madras Light Cavalry in 1834 and spent much time in India, where he took part in the Trigonometrical Survey of the country. Returning to England in 1861 he was appointed inspector of the scientific instruments to be used in India. In 1864 he was elected into the Royal Society.

1870. On 23rd June 1870 the Anniversary Meeting of the Club was held, when the following company were present :

Sir Roderick Murchison, Bart., K.C.B., in the Chair

Sir William Armstrong	Sir Henry Holland
Sir Rowland Hill	Sir Charles Wheatstone
Sir William Fairbairn	E. W. Cooke
Thomas Webster	J. F. Bateman
Dr. John Percy	Dr. William Sharpey
William Bowman	Sir William Fergusson
J. P. Gassiot	Sir John Rennie
Warren De la Rue	Colonel Smythe
Frederick Augustus Abel	James Fergusson
Dr. William Odling	Dr. W. A. Miller
Francis Galton	T. A. Hirst

Captain Galton and Dr. Sibson, Treasurers

The Treasurers submitted a financial statement according to which the expenses of the past year had amounted to £118 6s., leaving an available balance in hand of £17 8s. There had been 21 dinners in the course of the year. They were attended by 359 diners, whereof 86 were visitors, the average at each dinner being 17.

Sir William Fairbairn having reached the age of eighty years was elected an Honorary Member.

The death of Thomas Graham was announced. By this death and the transference of Sir William Fairbairn to be Honorary Member two vacancies were caused. Out of seven candidates proposed John Gwyn Jeffreys was elected. General Sabine was again formally elected President, and Captain Galton and Dr. Sibson, Treasurers.

The new member John Gwyn Jeffreys was a zoologist whose *Manual of British Conchology* became a standard work. He was not merely a collector and museum student, but undertook many dredging voyages over the seas of

Western and Northern Europe from the Mediterranean to Arctic waters, and was thus enabled to add to the European fauna some dozens of previously unknown species of mollusks. He was associated with W. A. Carpenter and Wyville Thomson as one of the pioneers of deep-sea research, and at their request took charge of part of the explorations on the *Porcupine*.

The presence of Murchison in the chair at the Anniversary dinner of the Club this year was one of the last appearances made by him at the Club or in any public place. He was at this time in correspondence with the Government of the day with reference to a proposed subdivision of the Chair of Natural History in the University of Edinburgh, which was a Crown appointment. Should the Crown be willing to separate Geology and its cognate branches of science from the zoological division of Natural History he expressed his willingness to provide £6000 towards the endowment of a new Professorship of Geology and Mineralogy. Before the negotiations on the subject were completed he was on 21st November this year struck down by a paralytic seizure which deprived him of the use of his left side. He recovered so far as to be able to take a daily drive and to dictate his last Presidential Address to the Geographical Society. But though he lingered through most of the following year, the end was visibly approaching. It was with some difficulty that the arrangements for the final settlement of the Edinburgh Professorship could be carried through. The old chief, however, had the satisfaction of seeing them completed. But on 21st October, a fortnight before the newly appointed Professor had given his inaugural address, the founder of the Chair passed away.

1871. At the Anniversary Meeting on 22nd June 1871 there were thirty-four members present, and Sir Edward Sabine, President, filled the chair. The Treasurers stated that the expenditure since the last Annual General Meeting amounted to £103 14s. and a balance of £8 14s. 8d. remained in their hands. The total number of dinners had been 21 and of diners 303, of whom 64 were visitors. The average

attendance at each dinner was 15. The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed to be two guineas.

Three vacancies were announced. Of these one arose from the election of Mr. Spottiswoode to the Treasurership of the Royal Society and his consequent transference to the *ex-officio* list; another was caused by the absence of General Lefroy from this country, he having been appointed Governor of Bermuda, and a third had been left over unfilled from last year. There were eleven candidates, from whom the three elected by vote were Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoigne Cecil, Marquess of Salisbury; Captain Andrew Noble, and Charles William Siemens.

It was resolved that dinners during the vacation should be provided on Thursday 27th July, 28th September, and 19th October.

General Sir Edward Sabine was re-elected President, and Captain Galton and Dr. Sibson, Treasurers.

The Marquess of Salisbury, who filled so conspicuous a place in the political history of the British Empire during the latter half of the nineteenth century, was not only a great statesman, but retained through life a love of science which led him to take note of the successive advances in discovery, and sometimes in the intervals of his public duties even to prosecute practical chemical experimentation in his own laboratory at Hatfield. He was elected into the Royal Society at the beginning of 1869 and served on the Council. When the cares of State allowed him to attend he was in some years by no means an infrequent diner at the Club.

Captain Andrew Noble, descendant of an ancient family in Dumbartonshire, joined the Royal Artillery and soon began to interest himself in the scientific side of gunnery. As far back as 1858 he was appointed Secretary of the Committee on Rifled Cannon and next year Secretary of the Committee on Plates and Guns. His expert knowledge based on his own practical researches led to his being placed on many Committees on the subject of arms and armaments. His reputation in these matters induced the firm of W. G.

Armstrong & Co., in 1860, to offer him a place on their board, and he eventually became its Chairman. He was recognised not only in this country but abroad as one of the highest authorities on the science of explosives and gunnery. The Royal Society, into which he was elected in 1870, marked the scientific importance of his work by awarding him one of the Royal Medals in 1880, when Joseph Lister was the recipient of the other. His services to the Army and Navy were recognised by the honours of K.C.B. and a baronetcy. He purchased an extensive estate at the head of Loch Fyne in Argyllshire and there as a hospitable landowner he spent the summers of his later years. He died in 1915 in the eighty-fifth year of his age.

Charles William Siemens, born in Hanover in 1823, came to England in his youth. He possessed a marvellous inventive faculty, which showed itself in the devising and perfecting of various kinds of mechanism, such as the water-meter, which became such a great success. Again, his regenerative gas furnace proved a potent instrument for further improvements in the manufacture of steel. When he turned his genius to the applications of electricity he took up the problem of transoceanic telegraph cables and successfully laid one cable after another across the Atlantic. His dynamo and its many practical uses and his various devices for electric lighting raised his firm to the highest scientific and commercial eminence. He became F.R.S. in 1862 and was invited by the Society to give the Bakerian Lecture in 1871. He was President of the British Association at Southampton in 1882, and was knighted the following year only a few months before his death in his sixty-first year. It has been well said of him that "there are few whose life's record will show so long a list of useful labours."

On 30th November 1871 Sir Edward Sabine retired from the Presidentship of the Royal Society which he had held for ten years. Sir George Biddell Airy, the Astronomer Royal, was then elected in his stead. It does not appear that the new President ever joined the Club. He was at this

timeseventy years of age and he lived at Greenwich, immersed in the work of the Observatory. He probably felt that the distance of his residence from London was an insuperable obstacle to his being able often to dine with the Club. He held the Presidentship for only two years, retiring on St. Andrew's Day, 1873. Consequently, for a short time Sir Edward Sabine continued to preside at the meetings of the Club. It was not until the advent of Sir Joseph Hooker to the Presidential Chair of the Royal Society in 1873 that the Club had once more its usual head.

1872. At the Anniversary Meeting in 1872 held on 27th June there were twenty-nine members present and General Sir Edward Sabine presided. The statement by the Treasurers showed that the expenses of the past financial year amounted to £101 12s. 10d. and that there was a balance in hand of £24 1s. 10d. The subscription for the following year was fixed at £2 2s. There had been 22 dinners during the year, attended by 303 diners, of whom 54 were visitors. The average attendance at each dinner was 14.

Only one member was reported as having been absent for twelve months. But he was "re-elected."

The death of Sir Roderick I. Murchison since last Anniversary was announced; also the resignation of Sir William Erle. There were thus two vacancies, which were filled by the election of Henry John Stephen Smith and Dr. Owen Rees.

The vacation dinners were arranged to be provided on Thursday 18th July, 8th August, and 17th October.

Henry John Stephen Smith was one of the most brilliant men of his day. At Baliol he took a double first, but tended most to the mathematical side, becoming in 1860 Savilian Professor of Geometry. He was the greatest authority on the theory of numbers. At the same time he was an admirable classical scholar. And yet with all this genius and learning he remained one of the most sociable of men, humorous, witty, and charming in talk, author of endless incisive but usually genial sayings, which passed from

mouth to mouth in the society of his time. He was elected into the Royal Society for his consummate mathematical prowess in 1861. He died in 1883 in the 57th year of his age.

George Owen Rees, M.D., who became F.R.S. in 1843, a well-known London physician, successively gave the Gulstonian and Croonian lectures and the Harveian oration at the Royal College of Physicians. He was often employed in important criminal investigations.

1873. The Anniversary Meeting on June 26, 1873, was attended by thirty-one members and Sir Edward Sabine presided. The Treasurers presented their annual financial statement, which showed that the expenses for the past year amounted to £125 18s. 6d., leaving a deficit of £2 2s. 8d. The number of dinners had been 22 attended by 294 diners, including 53 visitors. The average attendance at each dinner was 13.4.

The subscription for the following year was fixed at two guineas. The dinners during the vacation were arranged to be provided on Thursdays 17th July, 11th September, and 16th October at half-past six o'clock. No absentees were reported this year.

The death of Richard Partridge was announced. The meeting was informed that Professor Huxley could now be transferred from the ordinary to the *ex-officio* list, as he had been elected Secretary of the Royal Society; further, that Sir John Rennie, having reached his 80th year, could now be made an Honorary Member. Thus three vacancies would arise, which it was agreed to fill up. There were nine candidates. On the votes being taken John Marshall, Nevil Story Maskelyne, and Henry Wollaston Blake were elected.

John Marshall, surgeon, anatomist, and physiologist, after being for a time Demonstrator of Anatomy at University College, London, became Professor of Surgery. He was elected by the Royal Academy to be their Professor of Anatomy in 1873, and held that office up to the time of his death in 1891. He was also Professor of Physiology at

the Royal Institution. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1857.

Nevil Story Maskelyne (F.R.S. 1870), while a student at Oxford, became much interested in the subjects taught by Daubeny and Buckland, insomuch that, after having taken for a time to law, he was glad to return to the University in 1850, when Buckland proposed that Maskelyne should relieve him of the mineralogical part of his wide subject. Though not prepared by long practice for the task offered to him, he accepted. Ultimately he was appointed Professor of Mineralogy at Oxford. He was also made Keeper of Minerals at the British Museum, and held the two appointments conjointly. With but little assistance he rearranged the whole of the great collection of minerals at Bloomsbury. He was one of the earliest of the mineralogists to take up the study of minerals and rocks in thin sections under the microscope with polarised light. He made a special study of meteorites and detected in them some new minerals. In 1880 he entered Parliament as member for Cricklade and continued in that position for twelve years, when he retired to lead the life of a country gentleman on his own property, taking an active part in the business affairs of his county. He died in 1911.

Henry Wollaston Blake, educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, became early in life a partner in the firm of Boulton & Watt, of the Soho Foundry, Birmingham, which had an extensive foreign connexion. He was one of the original members of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and for many years a Director of the Bank of England. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1843.

On the 30th November 1873 Sir George Airy resigned his tenure of the Presidentship of the Royal Society, and Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker was elected as his successor. Since his first visit to the Club in 1839 this great botanist had risen to high eminence in the science to which he had devoted his life. Beginning as assistant-surgeon in the *Erebus* under Captain Ross in 1839 he obtained a mass of information regarding the botany and geology of the unknown

Antarctic regions, adding many hundreds of new species of plants to the then known flora of the southern hemisphere, as displayed in his great *Flora Antarctica*. In 1847 he became F.R.S., and starting for India spent three years in the exploration of the botany and geology of the Himalaya mountains. In his *Himalayan Journals* he gave a vivid account of his experience in that region. In 1855 he was appointed Assistant-Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew and in 1865 he succeeded his father as the head of that great institution, which in his hands became the chief botanical centre of the world. In 1871 he made an expedition into Morocco, ascended to the then virgin summit of the Great Atlas, bringing home a rich collection of plants. His remarkable capacity for research and his unwearied industry in prosecuting it remained with him through life. In the midst of his scientific work he now accepted the honourable but somewhat onerous position of President of the Royal Society. He fulfilled its duties with diligence and tact, and took his place worthily as Chairman of the Club. But his inextinguishable desire to see fresh botanical regions led him in 1877 to undertake still another tour. At the age of sixty he accompanied another veteran botanist, Dr. Asa Gray of Harvard, in a tour through Colorado, Utah and California. Honours of every kind were showered upon him, not only in his own country, but from all parts of the world. He was an Honorary member of every important scientific society and an Honorary graduate of innumerable Universities. He was made a member of the British Order of Merit and a Knight Grand Cross of the Star of India. His heart continued to be in his work, and his mind remained active up to the very end. He died in 1911, at the great age of ninety-four years.

1874. The Anniversary Meeting held on 25th June 1874 was attended by thirty-one members and Sir Charles Wheatstone took the Chair. The statement submitted by the Treasurers showed that the expenditure since the last Anniversary had risen to the large sum of £142 15s. 6d. and that there was a balance of £48 7s. 6d. against the Club.

There were nine members whose subscriptions had not been received. When these were paid the adverse balance would be considerably reduced. But the meeting resolved to increase the subscription for the ensuing year to £2 10s. The number of dinners during the past year was 21, attended by 288 diners, of whom 62 were visitors; the average attendance at each dinner was 13·7.

It was resolved that in future the meetings of the Club should take place at half-past six o'clock; that the number of ordinary members should be limited to fifty (instead of forty-five), and that the election of the President of the Club should take place at the first meeting in December instead of at the Anniversary. The object of the last of these resolutions was to obviate the delay of six months in electing a President for the Club at each change in the Presidentship of the Royal Society.

The death of Count Strzelecki was announced. To the vacancy thus caused the Meeting added seven others—"one from the appointment of General Lefroy to the Governorship of Bermuda";¹ one from the election of Professor Williamson to the Foreign Secretaryship of the Royal Society and his transference to the *ex-officio* list; and five others consequent upon the resolution to increase the ordinary membership to fifty. From a list of eighteen candidates the following eight were elected: Frederick J. Bramwell, Frederick John Owen Evans, John Evans, Richard Quain, Lord Rayleigh, Henry Enfield Roscoe, John Scott Burdon Sanderson, Sir William Thomson.

Frederick Joseph Bramwell started in 1853 as a Civil Engineer and rose to eminence in the profession. He was chosen President of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers in 1874, of the Civil Engineers in 1884. He was also President of the British Association when it met at Bath in 1888. He took an active interest in the Royal Institution and was chosen its Honorary Secretary in 1885. He was elected

¹ It seems to have been forgotten that this vacancy had already been filled up at the Anniversary in 1871. The General's governorship of Bermuda did not terminate till 1877.

into the Royal Society in 1873. He received knighthood in 1881 and was made a baronet in 1889.

Richard Quain, a physician in large consulting practice in London, was the Crown nominee on the General Medical Council from 1863 and was elected its President in 1891, in which year also he was created baronet. He became F.R.S. in 1871. He was probably most widely known as the editor of a "Dictionary of Medicine."

Lord Rayleigh is fortunately still present as a living and active Fellow of the Royal Society and its most distinguished physicist. Since he became a member of the Club he has been successively the Secretary and President of the Royal Society and continues to present to it the results of his studies.

Captain Frederick J. O. Evans during his earlier years in the Navy was engaged in surveying the coasts of Torres Straits, the Coral Sea and the Great Barrier Reef of Australia. At that time our fleet was wholly wooden, but after the Crimean war, when some of the vessels began to be constructed of iron, the problem at once arose as to how the compasses could be adjusted in such ships. To Archibald Smith (p. 344), son of James Smith of Jordanhill, already mentioned, and Captain Evans we owe the practical solution of that delicate problem. They jointly produced the Admiralty "Manual for the Deviation of Compasses in Iron Ships." Evans was appointed in 1855 Chief of the Compass Department of the Admiralty, a position in which he was able to render the most valuable services to the Navy. His scientific claims were acknowledged by the Royal Society, which in 1862 elected him one of its Fellows. In 1874 he succeeded to the important office of Hydrographer, and administered it with great ability for ten years. He was made K.C.B. in 1881.

John Evans has been already alluded to as the nephew and son-in-law of another member of the Club, John Dickinson (p. 345). He was one of the most mentally alert of his contemporaries. His special studies lay in antiquities, from the posy rings and coins of our great grandfathers back to the earliest

handiwork of primeval man. But he had many other interests in various departments of scientific enquiry and kept himself in touch with the progress of discovery and invention. He was an excellent man of business, and his capacity in this respect was gratefully acknowledged by his Hertfordshire neighbours, who welcomed him as High Sheriff, Chairman of Quarter Sessions, and Chairman of the County Council. His perspicacity in the transaction of affairs was placed by him whole-heartedly at the service of the Royal Society. He became a Fellow in 1864, and in the course of three years was elected into the Council. He filled this place again a few years later, and in 1878 he was chosen Treasurer. In this responsible office he continued for the long period of twenty years, during which he watched with constant attention over the Society's financial affairs and left them in a sound and flourishing condition. His entry into the Club brought a very charming companion. His invariable courtesy of manner seemed to belong rather to the quiet stateliness of a past generation than to the hurried inter-course of modern life. His conversation, always interesting, showed the breadth of his knowledge and experience. Moreover, it was often delightfully witty. He could rapidly throw off impromptu verses in which some passing incident was humorously depicted, and his memory, stored from a wide range of reading, which included the Latin classics, enabled him often to interject a happy quotation. These characteristic features he retained almost unimpaired up to the last, even though the ailment which finally carried him off was gradually sapping his strength and causing him much suffering. He bore this burden bravely to the end, and died on 31st May 1908 in the 85th year of his age.

Henry Enfield Roscoe received part of his scientific education at Heidelberg and throughout his life kept up his friendship with the eminent philosophers of Germany. He held the Professorship of Chemistry at the Owens College, Manchester, from 1858 to 1885, and during that long interval he not only sent out into the world scores of well-trained chemists to follow in his footsteps, but carried on original

investigation of a high order, which the Royal Society recognised by awarding to him a Royal Medal in 1873. At the same time he took a foremost part in the cause of education, such as starting series of cheap lectures on scientific subjects by the ablest men of science, and planning with Huxley and Balfour Stewart the series of Science Primers which have had so remarkable a success. He quitted his professorship in 1885 in order to enter Parliament as member for South Manchester. In the House of Commons he was always listened to on matters of education and science. He was appointed a member of numerous Commissions and Committees, where his educational experience and wide knowledge could be of service. After ten years of parliamentary labours he lost his seat at Manchester, but he continued to be active in the societies and institutions of which he was a member, and from time to time revised his educational works, including the massive "Treatise on Chemistry" which he prepared in conjunction with Schorlemmer. In his last years he gave up his London residence and retired to the charming country home in Surrey which had long been his summer retreat. There among his books and his flowers, he still kept in touch with the world outside, from which, when he no longer mingled in it, he could attract many an old friend to join him in talking over the past, discussing the present and forecasting the future.

John Scott Burdon Sanderson was this year appointed Jodrell Professor of Physiology in University College, London. His teaching and his writings made widely known his great knowledge and skill, and led to his being put on many Commissions of enquiry into diseases and into questions connected with public health and sometimes with the diseases of animals. He was at least once even sent abroad on one of these investigations. In recognition of the value of his public services he was in 1899 created a baronet. His gentleness and good-nature were most attractive, and the picturesquely medieval aspect of the man gave an additional zest to his friendship. He was elected into the Royal Society

in 1867, in 1883 he received a Royal Medal, and he thrice gave the Croonian Lecture to the Society.

Sir William Thomson's career since the first time he came to the Club in 1832 had been one of brilliant success as an intrepid explorer in physics and as an ingenious discoverer of the means of applying the results of physical research to practical uses. Thus he had studied and solved the problem of the transmission of electric currents through cables submerged on the ocean-floor. It was in 1866 under his own personal supervision that a cable was successfully laid across the Atlantic connecting Britain with the United States. For this important service to international civilisation he was knighted by Queen Victoria. He was now regarded as one of the most original and prolific leaders of science in the country. As far back as 1851 he had been elected F.R.S. In 1856 he received from the Royal Society the award of one of its Royal Medals. He had presided over the British Association at its third meeting at Edinburgh in 1871. At the time of his joining the Club there were still some thirty years of continued mental activity before him.

1875. At the Anniversary Meeting on 24th June 1875 the following company were present :

Dr. J. Hooker, President, in the Chair

Warren De la Rue	Sir John Dalrymple Hay
J. P. Gassiot	James Fergusson
E. W. Cooke	Captain A. Noble
F. J. Bramwell	F. A. Abel
John Percy	Dr. William Sharpey
John Evans	John Marshall
Dr. George Owen Rees	Admiral Richards
Dr. A. Farre	Captain F. J. O. Evans
H. Wollaston Blake	Professor Henry J. S. Smith
Charles Brooke	Nevil Story Maskelyne
Captain Galton, Treasurer	Dr. W. Odling
	Dr. Sibson, Treasurer

From the financial statement submitted by the Treasurers it appeared that their expenditure during the past year had been £169 9s. 1d. and had exceeded the income by the sum

of £2 5s. 1d. The subscription for the following year was fixed at two guineas. The number of dinners during the past year was 15,¹ at which the total attendance had been 246, made up of 210 members and 36 visitors; the average number at each dinner having been 16.5.

One member was reported not to have attended once during the year. This was Sir William Thomson. But the Minute states that he "was re-elected."

The death was announced of two members—Thomas Webster and Colonel Yorke.

The two vacancies thus caused were filled from a list of ten candidates by the election of Dr. Hugo Müller and William Pole.

The question of the distribution of the dinners having been considered, it was resolved that during the vacation the Club should meet on the 22nd of July and the 21st of October, the other meetings to be generally as they were arranged last year, but that there should be only one meeting in January, while two should be held in May.

At the meeting of the Club held on the 9th December 1874 when ten members were present and General Smythe occupied the chair, it was proposed, in accordance with the resolution adopted last year, and was carried unanimously, that Dr. Joseph Hooker, President of the Royal Society, should be also President of the Club. He accordingly took the chair at the meetings of the Club from that date onward. At the Anniversary this year he had already been six months in office; but for custom's sake and perhaps to make assurance doubly sure the meeting went through the formality of again electing him to fill the chair in which he was at the very time duly seated. The two Treasurers, Captain Galton and Dr. Sibson, were re-elected to their office.

1876. The Anniversary Meeting of 1876 was held on June 22 and was attended by twenty-seven members, presided over by Dr. Hooker. The statement by the Treasurers

¹ There is no statement in the Minutes of the reason why the number of dinners, which was 21 in the year before, should now have been reduced to 15 (see p. 425).

showed that the expenditure for the past year was £123 10s. 2½d. and that this sum exceeded the income by £10 0s. 2½d. It was agreed that the subscription for the ensuing year should remain at £2 2s.

The death of three members of the Club was reported—Sir Charles Wheatstone, Colonel Strange, and Lord Lyttelton. Mr. Busk sent in his resignation, Mr. Sylvester had “left the country,” no doubt to take up his duties as Professor of Mathematics at the Johns Hopkins University of Baltimore, Maryland, and Sir Rowland Hill, who had become an octogenarian, would now pass from the ordinary into the Honorary List.

There were thus six vacancies and the waiting list showed twelve candidates. As the result of the voting the following gentlemen were elected: Dr. Charles Wyville Thomson, Joseph Prestwich, Philip Lutley Sclater, Augustus Wollaston Franks, Edward Thomas, and Heinrich Debus.

Charles Wyville Thomson, educated at Edinburgh University, showed an early taste for natural history. When only twenty-three years of age he was appointed to the Chair of Natural History in Queen's College, Cork, which he exchanged next year for that of Geology and Mineralogy in Queen's College, Belfast. In 1870 he came back to his Alma Mater as Professor of the biological side of Natural History in succession to Allman at the Edinburgh University. While still at Belfast he had greatly distinguished himself by deep-sea researches carried on for several years in the vessels *Lightning* and *Porcupine*. The interest thus aroused in the subject and the prospect of the great increase of our knowledge of the sea which further and more elaborate exploration would yield led ultimately, largely through the action of the Royal Society, to the great voyage of the *Challenger* from 1872 to 1876. Wyville Thomson was the scientific head of this admirably equipped expedition, which achieved a splendid success. He was knighted on his return, and then set about the preparation of the reports on the scientific results that had been gathered. But his health began to fail. Though he was able to write two volumes, one on the *Depths of the*

Sea (1872) and *The Voyage of the Challenger* (1877), he did not live to see the final distribution and working out of the material he had so laboriously collected. He died at Edinburgh in the spring of 1882.

Joseph Prestwich belonged to the early company of geologists by which the stratigraphical branch of the science was put on a sound basis of observation. Immersed in the business of a wine-merchant in the city of London, he nevertheless found time to devote to geological work in the field either at home or abroad. His papers on the Tertiary deposits of England, France, and Belgium remain as a monument of his patient observation and facility in correlation. Better known, however, to the general public was the share he had in the middle of last century in showing that man must have lived contemporaneously with many long-extinct animals, and that the evidence collected by the laborious but scantily recognised French explorer, Boucher de Perthes, was trustworthy, and pointed unmistakably to the great antiquity of the human race. After forty years of city life and Mark Lane associations, Prestwich at the age of sixty retired from London to the pleasant retreat which he had built for himself on the chalk down overlooking the valley of the Darent above the village of Shoreham, where he was now able to give his whole time to his beloved science. But in a short while a new incentive was given to his zeal and a radical change was wrought in his life by the offer of the Professorship of Geology at Oxford, vacant by the much regretted death of John Phillips. With all his ardour, even at his advanced years, Prestwich threw himself into the work of this new sphere and became a useful and popular member of the academic community. His writings and his example of personal devotion to geological investigation will preserve his name to future generations. But it was not only this scientific eminence that gave him consequence among his contemporaries. His simplicity of nature, unaffected modesty, and genuine goodness won the hearts of all who came into contact with him. He had a noble head, and in his old age was one of the most picturesque



RIGHT HON. SIR WILLIAM ROBERT GROVE, F.R.S., 1840.

One of the Founders of the Philosophical Club.

figures in Oxford, where the integrity and charm of his character were fully appreciated.

Philip Lutley Sclater was educated at Oxford, where he obtained a Fellowship in Corpus Christi College. He became a barrister and for some years went on the Western Circuit. His taste for science, however, drew him from the practice of the law and attached him to the Zoological Society, of which he became Secretary in 1859—an office held by him for some forty years, during which time he made many improvements in the Society's Zoological Gardens. His love of birds induced him to assume the editorship of the *Ibis*, and to write many ornithological papers as well as separate works. He became F.R.S. in 1861.

Augustus Wollaston Franks, educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge, received in 1851 an appointment in the Department of Antiquities in the British Museum, where eventually he was placed at the head of the section of British and Medieval Antiquities and Ethnography. He edited "*Archaeologica*" and made many contributions to that publication. He was elected President of the Society of Antiquaries in 1891, and was created K.C.B. in 1894. In the course of years he amassed a fine collection of Chinese and Japanese porcelain, which he presented to the British Museum. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1874.

Edward Thomas, in his day a well-known numismatist, was for many years in the public service in India. On his return to England he wrote papers on Eastern coins, which were republished with the title *Tracts on Oriental Literature*. He became F.R.S. in 1871.

Heinrich Debus, born in Hesse and educated at Marburg University, came to England and in 1851 was appointed lecturer on Chemistry at Queenwood College, Hampshire, probably through the influence of John Tyndall, who was one of the teachers there, and may have made his acquaintance at Marburg. Debus subsequently held various appointments in London among which was that of examiner in Chemistry to the University of London. He became

F.R.S. in 1861. In later years he lived mostly in Germany, where he died in 1915.

On 7th December 1876, at the first meeting of the Club after St. Andrew's Day, Dr. Joseph D. Hooker, who continued to be President of the Royal Society, was formally re-elected President of the Club. This meeting was summoned for that purpose, but unfortunately it had a further and more serious task to discharge. Dr. Sibson, one of the two Treasurers, had died since the Anniversary, and it was necessary to appoint someone to carry on his duties. The President proposed that J. Gwyn Jeffreys should be appointed joint-Treasurer with Captain Galton, and this proposition was carried unanimously. A sympathetic letter of condolence, signed by the President and many members of the Club, was sent to Mrs. Sibson, widow of the late Treasurer.

1877. In the year 1877 the Anniversary meeting on 21st June was attended by twenty-two members and Sir Joseph D. Hooker presided. The financial statement of the Treasurers showed the expenditure to have been £134 6s. 9d., leaving a balance in their hands of £7 5s. 2d. The number of dinners held since the previous Anniversary was 15, which were attended by 211 members and 34 visitors, making a total of 245. The greatest number of persons present at any dinner was 27 and the smallest 8. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at £2 2s.

The death of Dr. Sibson and of Sir William Fergusson was announced.

J. P. Gassiot resigned his membership. There were thus three vacancies to be filled. There were nine candidates on the list, and out of these by vote I. Lowthian Bell, Dr. Joseph Henry Gilbert, and Admiral Erasmus Ommanney were elected.

It was arranged that during the vacation the Club should meet on Thursday 12th July and 18th October, and the dates of the meetings during the session were fixed, one dinner in each of the months from November to April inclusive, two in May and one in June. It was also agreed that the Anniversary should be on 27th June 1878, all the meetings,

including the Anniversary, to be held at half-past six o'clock.

No reason is assigned in the Minutes for the reduction of the number of meetings in the year. The omission of one Thursday in each month during the session of the Royal Society, by arrangement with the Philosophical Club, accounted for a lessening of this number from 1856 onwards. The average up to 1874 ranged from 21 to 25 dinners in the year. In 1875 there was a sudden drop to 15, which in 1878 sank to 12. The numbers rose again in 1879 to 18; but in 1881 they again fell to 12. The Minutes do not explain the causes of these fluctuations. This subject will be again referred to in the next Chapter.

Of the members elected this year Isaac Lowthian Bell, chemist and metallurgist, was, in co-operation with his brothers, founder of great ironworks on the Tees. He was skilled in the scientific side of the industries which he fostered, and this aspect of his important work was recognised by the Royal Society when in 1874 he was elected F.R.S. He represented Hartlepool in Parliament for five years, and in recognition of his public services was created a baronet in 1885. He died in 1904.

Dr. Joseph Henry Gilbert studied chemistry under Liebig at Giessen and obtained the degree of Ph.D. In 1843 he engaged with J. B. Lawes of Rothamstead in experimental researches in agricultural chemistry and physiology on a large scale, with a view to the advancement of agriculture. The great scientific interest and practical value of these prolonged investigations have been fully recognised. Dr. Gilbert was elected into the Royal Society in 1860, and in 1867 a Royal Medal was awarded jointly to him and his Colleague, Mr. Lawes. He was elected President of the Chemical Society and Sibthorpian Professor of Rural Economy in the University of Oxford, and received the honour of knighthood.

Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommañney, K.C.B., joined the Navy in 1826 when he was twelve years old. Next year as aide-de-camp to the Captain of the *Albion* he served in the thickest

of the fight in the battle of Navarino. Long afterwards he received from King George of Greece the Cross of Grand Commander of the Order of the Saviour in commemoration of his services in the cause of Greek freedom. Among his varied experiences in the Navy he was second in command in the expedition sent under Captain Austin in 1850 to search for Sir John Franklin, and he was the first to find traces of the missing ships. He was knighted after this Arctic work. He became rear-admiral in 1864 and F.R.S. in 1868. When he retired from active service he took much interest in the societies and institutions with which he was connected, particularly the Royal and Geographical and the British Association.

In accordance with the recent practice a special meeting was summoned for 13th December this year to elect a President. It was attended by fifteen members. Sir Joseph Hooker presided and was of course unanimously re-elected President.

1878. On 27th June 1878 the Club held its annual general Meeting, which was attended by nineteen members, the chair being taken by the senior Treasurer, Dr. William Sharpey. The financial statement for the past year submitted by the Treasurers showed the expenditure to have been £99 2s. 10d. and that a balance of £19 8s. 4d. remained in hand. The contribution for the following year was again fixed at £2 2s. The absentees in the course of the preceding year numbered no fewer than eleven and included some of the most distinguished members of the Club. The subject was too serious to be fully discussed at the Anniversary Meeting, but the following resolution was passed: "That in consequence of the unusual number of members who have not attended any meeting of the Club since the last Anniversary this Anniversary Meeting be adjourned to the 14th of November next for the purpose of considering the question of vacancies caused by the operation of Rule VI., viz. 'Any Member who has not attended the Club at least *once* between and exclusive of the two Anniversary Meetings, shall no longer be considered as a Member.'"

The number of dinners held since the last Anniversary was twelve; the number of diners 212, composed of 172 members and 40 visitors. The average attendance at each dinner was 17.6.

No vacancies had occurred during the year. The list of candidates now contained ten names. It was agreed that provision should be made for more dinners in the coming session. The number fixed upon was eighteen distributed through the months thus: viz. one in November, two in December and in January, three in February and in March, two in April, three in May and one in June, and the next Anniversary was fixed for 26th June 1879.

Captain Douglas Galton announced his resignation of the office of Treasurer, and a vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to him for his past services. The proposal of the President, seconded by Admiral Sir John Dalrymple Hay, that Admiral Sir George Henry Richards should be elected one of the Treasurers, to act conjointly with Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys, was adopted.

The adjourned Meeting duly took place on 14th November. Sir Joseph Hooker presided and seventeen other members were present. Letters were read from some of the absentees who had been reported at the Anniversary and explanations were offered by or on behalf of the others. It was resolved that all these members should be re-elected or restored to the membership.

A letter from Sir Erasmus Ommanney was read expressing his wish to resign his membership. His resignation was accepted¹ and General Sir John Henry Lefroy, who had now returned from his governorship of the Bermudas, was transferred from the Supernumerary List to be an ordinary member.

The somewhat perfunctory meeting summoned for the election of a president was held on 5th December. But this time it had really something to do, for on St. Andrew's Day Sir Joseph Hooker retired from the Presidentship of

¹ He subsequently applied to be reinstated as a member and he was re-elected at the Anniversary in 1889.

the Royal Society. William Spottiswoode, who was elected on the same day by the Society to succeed him, was now unanimously elected President of the Club.

At the meeting on 12th December the Rules of the Club, which had been under revision, were now finally settled and ordered to be printed. A copy of these printed rules, providently pasted into the minute-book, has been thereby preserved. Though the rules had been printed before, no copy of them appears to have survived, at least none has been found among the archives of the Club.

CHAPTER XIII

PRESIDENTSHIPS OF WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE, THOMAS
HENRY HUXLEY AND SIR GEORGE GABRIEL STOKES,
1878-1890

WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE, who, as already stated (p. 363), was a visitor to the Club for the first time in 1852, rose rapidly after that time in scientific reputation. Mathematician, physicist and Oriental scholar, he was also still further linked with literature by being appointed Queen's Printer, succeeding his father as head of the important printing house of Eyre and Spottiswoode. When at Oxford he had been lecturer on mathematics, and he subsequently devoted much attention to the polarization of light, electrical discharge and other physical subjects, communicating many papers to the *Philosophical Transactions* and other journals. He took a zealous part in the work of the Royal Society. For nine years from 1870 to 1878 he was Treasurer, and this responsible office he exchanged in the latter year for that of President. It was while holding his Presidentship that to the great regret of the Society and of the scientific world in general he died unexpectedly on June 27, 1883.

1879. The Anniversary Meeting of the year 1879 was held on June 26th when there were nineteen members present and the Marquess of Salisbury presided. The Treasurers reported that the expenses for the past year amounted to £90 19s. 10d., leaving a balance of £46 os. 6d. in hand. The contribution for the ensuing year was fixed at two guineas.

There were five absentees. Four of these were not "discontinued," but the fifth, the Earl of Caithness, having been absent for two years, was considered to be no longer a member of the Club. The number of dinners during the year was 18, attended by 223 persons, consisting of 200 members and 23 visitors, with an average attendance of 12.

The death of Charles Brooke was announced. Sir William Thomson, no doubt finding that his work in Glasgow required most of his time and that his distance from London was a serious obstacle to his attendance at the Club, resigned his membership. There were thus three vacancies and eleven candidates. As the result of the voting the elected members were Professor Bartholomew Price, Admiral Sir Astley Cooper Key, and Dr. William James Russell.

The meetings for the forthcoming session were arranged to be again eighteen, but differently distributed through the months. There was to be one in November and in December, three in January and in February, two in March, four in April, one in May and three in June, the last being that of the Anniversary.

Of the new members elected this year, the Rev. B. Price was Sadleian Professor of Natural Philosophy at Oxford from 1853 till his death in 1898. He became F.R.S. in 1852. Admiral Sir A. Cooper Key entered the Navy in 1833 and after varied service at home and abroad was in 1873 appointed first President of the Royal Naval College. He became Admiral in 1878 and next year was appointed First Naval Lord of the Admiralty. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1868. He died in 1888. Dr. W. J. Russell, a chemist of repute, entered the Royal Society in 1872.

We have now passed over the interval of twenty-four years of which the dinner-registers of the Club cannot be found. The minute-books of those years, which have been fully used in the foregoing chapters, containing as they do the reports of the Anniversary Meetings when the elections and other business of the Club are for the most part trans-

acted, throw little light upon the social gatherings, the company assembled at the dinners, and the visitors invited thereto. When we resume the perusal of the dinner-registers which are extant from 20th November 1879 onward we realise that a perceptible change has come upon the social side of the Club's life. This change had been in gradual progress from before the middle of the last century and some of the proofs of its intermittent but nevertheless continuous advance may be perceived in the foregoing Chapters. But there will be an advantage in pausing for a little in our narrative and looking back across the years to mark some of the stages of the change.

We have seen that the number of dinners in the course of the year has greatly diminished from what it was in the days of Henry Cavendish. The weekly dinners continued in full vigour up to the end of the Presidentship of Joseph Banks. In his last year of office there were 52 dinners between the Anniversary of 1819 and that of 1820. Encroachments for holidays—a recess at Easter, another at Whitsuntide and another at Christmas, and the effect of the social change in the habits of the community which led to the adoption and enlargement of a vacation between June and November—caused the Club dinners gradually to shrink in number. Ten years after Banks had passed away they had diminished in 1829-30 to 42. In 1839-40 they numbered 36; in 1849-50 they were reduced to 31. In other ten years, 1859-60, they fell to 25; in 1869-70 they were 21; in 1879-80 they did not number more than 18; and between 1889-90 and 1899-1900 they dwindled to 12. The amalgamation of the Royal Society and the Philosophical Clubs, however, infused new vigour into the united body and soon more than doubled the number of dinners in the year.

A less perceptible but not unimportant change has come upon the visitor element at the dinners. This hospitable feature of the meetings has become less prominent than it used to be in the days of Pringle and Banks. It is difficult

to believe that eminent foreigners were coming less frequently to London than they did a century before. But they were now certainly seldomer seen at the table of the Royal Society Club. There arise occasions indeed which bring a large company of men of science from all parts of the world to this country, as when the International Association of Academies met in London in 1903 and still more when the Royal Society gathered so illustrious an assemblage of representatives of learning, literature, and science to celebrate in 1912 its 250th birthday. At such times the Royal Society Club has nobly discharged the duties of hospitality.

In another aspect the usual type of visitor to the modern Club differs from the average type a century ago. Formerly among the guests, and even among its members, there could often be found ministers of state, heads of public departments with other members of the official world, and with leading representatives of literature and of art, and of the Church, the Navy and Army. Not a few of these men who actually joined the Club took pleasure in attending its meetings and in sharing its conviviality. Such visitors are but rarely seen now. It may be said that public life has grown far more strenuous than it was two or three generations back, and that hard-worked statesmen, politicians, and officials do not perhaps expect to meet with mental relaxation and enjoyment at the table of the dining club of a Society composed mainly of men absorbed in the prosecution of all branches of science.

It must be admitted, too, that the members of the Club as a whole are not quite what they were in early days. The Royal Society to which they belong consists now, to a far larger extent than it used to do, of members who are truly men of science, actively engaged in research. A large proportion of them are professors or demonstrators in universities and colleges, engaged not only in teaching but in research. They include few representatives of literature or art, such as were formerly welcomed to the Fellowship of the Society. The country gentleman, also, who besides

attending to his county business and managing his property, is interested in natural history or some other branch of science, which he does what he can to support and encourage, used to be a valuable member both of the Royal Society and of the Club. But he has almost disappeared from each. Men of affairs, whether in Church or State, who had weight in the community, used to be chosen in some number into the Society and thence into the Club, and their presence was even welcomed within the Council. They have now been in great part eliminated.

The change may have begun in the earlier decades of last century, but there can be no doubt that it has been mainly the result of the revolution in the mode of election of Fellows which was effected in 1847. That absolutely necessary and, on the whole, most beneficial reform gradually brought back the Society to what in its original Charter was intended to be its characteristic object—the pursuit of studies for “promoting by the authority of experiments the sciences of natural things and of useful arts.” The Society was slowly purged of the numerous members who had no claim to possess any scientific qualification or to have shown any interest in furthering the progress of science. The Society has thus become a much stronger institution, comprising the leaders in every great branch of science in the country, and counting in the list of its foreign members some of the most distinguished scientific leaders abroad.

But while the Society has undoubtedly gained immensely in scientific weight by the reform, it has lost something of the breadth and variety of culture which it formerly possessed. This loss is perhaps more visibly perceptible at the table of the Club than elsewhere. The presence of men of letters, art or affairs in its membership saved it from becoming too professional and professorial. While the non-scientific men were glad to hear from the philosophers the latest results of experiment and enquiry, the latter in turn would often find that in regard to the affairs of

everyday life which form so large a part of cultivated conversation, their friends and messmates from the outer world could often bring a freshness and vividness of view which men engrossed in physical or biological research, or in the laborious work of teaching, were less in a position to acquire. It is not that the Society has absolutely closed its portals to the admission of persons who cannot properly be called men of science. There has been a rule for some years that persons "who either have rendered conspicuous service to the cause of science, or are such that their election would be of signal benefit to the Society" may be recommended for election to the Fellowship; "provided that not more than two should be so recommended in any one calendar year, and if two persons be elected in any one year, there shall be no election in the following year." Obviously this minute dose of non-scientific leaven would be long in effecting any serious change in the membership, though to its operation the ranks of the Society now owe the presence of some illustrious men who would not otherwise have been elected. The Council, however, has recently been induced to revise that statute with the view of throwing the doors of the Society more widely open. It is now proposed that the Council may recommend to the Society for election (*a*) Privy Councillors whose election would assist the work of the Society, and (*b*) Men distinguished in the scientific or educational service of the State, or by their services to science and its application; provided that the number of Fellows in either Class shall not exceed twenty-five at any time, and that in Class (*b*) not more than five shall be elected in any one year. The Society and the Club could not fail to benefit from this moderate amendment of procedure, if it be liberally and judiciously carried out. The reform might even with advantage be extended so as to include a few of the leading representatives of Literature and Art, of the Church and of the Military services, as was the practice in the youth of the Royal Society.

1880. At the Anniversary Meeting on June 24th 1880 the following members were present :

Dr. De La Rue, in the Chair

Sir John Dalrymple Hay	Dr. C. W. Siemens
Prof. Bartholomew Price	Captn. D. Galton
Dr. William James Russell	Captn. F. J. O. Evans
Dr. Joseph Henry Gilbert	James Fergusson
Frederick J. Bramwell	John Marshall
J. F. Bateman	Dr. George Owen Rees
Dr. Heinrich Debus	Sir J. H. Lefroy
Nevil S. Maskelyne	Edward Thomas
Professor Henry J. S. Smith	William Bowman
	J. Gwyn Jeffreys, Treasurer

The Treasurers reported that the expenditure had amounted to £102 2s. 11d. and that there remained in their hands a balance of £65 13s. 7d. The contribution for the following year was fixed at one pound ten shillings. The number of dinners since the last Anniversary had been 18, attended by 235 persons, of whom 199 were members and 36 visitors. The average number present was 13, the smallest attendance being 5.

The death of Dr. Sharpey, Sir Rowland Hill, and E. W. Cooke was intimated.

There was no vacancy owing to absence, and only one from the death of an ordinary member, E. W. Cooke. There were nine candidates, and from these Robert Henry Scott, who stood at the head of the list, was elected by the requisite number of votes.

The dinners between this Anniversary and that of next year were fixed to be twelve in number, and were distributed through the months in the following order: Thursdays, November 18, December 9; January 13, 27; February 10, 24; March, 10 24; April 28; May 12; June 2 and 23 (Anniversary).¹

Robert H. Scott, elected at this meeting, was born in Dublin in 1833 and educated at Rugby and at Trinity College, Dublin; he studied also at Berlin and Munich. Early in life he devoted his attention to the study of minerals, and was appointed to take charge of the mineral collection

¹ No explanation is afforded in the Minutes of the reason why the eighteen dinners arranged at the previous Anniversary were reduced to twelve.

belonging to the Royal Dublin Society. In 1867 he was put in charge of the Meteorological Office in London, where he remained until 1900. As he issued and signed the daily weather-charts which were reproduced in some of the newspapers, he came to be familiarly known to many of his friends as the "Clerk of the Weather." His little volumes *Weather-charts and Storm-warnings* and *Elementary Meteorology* were of service in spreading an intelligent comprehension of some of the more important features of the atmosphere. Elected into the Royal Society in 1870, he became Treasurer of the Royal Society Club in 1885 and continued to devote himself to its welfare for seventeen years thereafter.

An important change in the hour of the ordinary meetings of the Royal Society was introduced this year, to which no allusion is made in the Minute-book or dinner-registers of the Club, although it could not but directly affect attendance at the Club. Up to this time the ordinary meetings of the Society were always held in the evening, the hour of assembly being successively altered from 6 to 8 and then to 8.30. The Club dinner took place, therefore, before the Society's meeting, and members rose from the table in time to be present at the meeting. But in 1880 the Society changed the hour of its ordinary meetings to 4.30. One function of the Club, that of contributing a company of Fellows to the meeting of the Society, thus disappeared. The Club, however, continued to meet in the evening at the old hour, which was earlier than the usual hour for dinner, but had it been made later the change would have inconvenienced those members from a distance who had no club or other resting-place in which to spend the very variable interval after the close of the Society's meeting.

Baron Elphinstone, one of the guests this year, the fifteenth bearer of the title, and a representative Peer of Scotland, dined as the guest of the President on 12th February. He was frequently Lord-in-Waiting to Queen Victoria and was by her created Baron Elphinstone in the peerage of the United Kingdom. Arnold Hague, another of the guests, one of the best geologists on the staff of the Geological

Survey of the United States and author of important memoirs published by that Survey, was invited by Warington Smyth on 11th March.

Balfour Stewart, invited by Mr. Bowman on 22nd April, had then been ten years the brilliant Professor of Natural Philosophy at Owens College, Manchester. Five years before he came to the Club he had published in conjunction with Professor Peter Guthrie Tait the suggestive volume on *The Unseen Universe*, and five years later he was one of those who primarily started the Society for Psychical Research, of which he was elected President. The value of his contributions to science, especially in regard to radiant heat, was recognised by the Royal Society in the award to him of the Rumford Medal in 1868. His death in 1887 at the age of fifty-nine was a severe blow to the progress of physical research in this country.

The "Mr. Ramsay" who was introduced by Professor Williamson on 22nd was doubtless the genial and accomplished field-geologist, Andrew Crombie Ramsay, the Director-General of the Geological Survey, who was this year President of the British Association at Swansea. After forty years of unremitting devotion to the public service, and having made many original contributions to geological literature, he was now nearing the time of his retirement. He had been President of the Geological Society, and had been awarded a Royal Medal by the Royal Society, which elected him a Fellow in 1849. He was knighted in 1881 on quitting the public service.

1881. In 1881 the Anniversary Meeting, held on 23rd June, was attended by twenty-three members, Dr. Warren De La Rue being Chairman. The Treasurers submitted a statement showing the expenditure to have fallen to £57 10s. 4d. and to have left in their hands a balance of no less than £91 5s. 3d. No comment appears on the Minute in explanation of the financial statement. The reduction in the number of dinners would at least partly account for the large surplus. But as we have already seen, the Tavern Bill could sometimes admit of reduction in other ways.

The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed at £1 10s. There had been twelve dinners during the year, attended altogether by 153 persons, of whom 130 were members and 23 visitors.

The Earl of Rosse and Sir Joseph Hooker sent in their resignation of membership, and General Lefroy going abroad was again made a Supernumerary member. There were thus three vacancies, which were filled by the election of Augustus George Vernon Harcourt, John Hall Gladstone, and the Right Honourable W. H. Smith.

It was resolved that there should be again twelve dinners in the ensuing year, one in each of the months of November, December, April and May, and two in January, February, March and June, the Anniversary being fixed for the second meeting in the last-named month.

Mr. Vernon Harcourt, one of the newly elected members, after a long and active career as a chemical investigator and teacher at Oxford, has retired to enjoy his well-earned rest in the Isle of Wight. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1868 and has been a staunch supporter of the Club.

Dr. J. H. Gladstone was for many years an able and active representative of chemical science in the Royal Society, which he had joined as far back as 1853.

William Henry Smith, head of the great news-agency in London, whose name is familiar at almost every railway station in this country, was not only a remarkably able man of business whereby he became wealthy, but he gained a prominent place among the statesmen of the country. As member for Westminster and afterwards for the Strand he was returned again and again to Parliament. He was universally respected, even by those most strongly opposed to his conservative politics. In 1886 he became first Lord of the Treasury and leader of the House of Commons in Lord Salisbury's government. He died while still holding that high office, and in recognition of his services to the country his widow was raised to the peerage as Viscountess Hambleden.

The only foreigner of note among the visitors of this year was Thomas Sterry Hunt, who was born in 1826 in the United States. Being a trained chemist he was appointed to the Geological Survey of Canada under Sir William Logan. He wrote largely on the chemical constitution and probable origin of the older rocks of Canada. On the death of Logan he returned to the States in 1872. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1859. He died in 1892.

1882. The Anniversary Meeting in 1882 took place on June 22nd and was attended by twenty-eight members and presided over by William Spottiswoode, President. The statement made by the Treasurers showed that the expenses amounted to £72 3s. 3d., leaving an unexpended balance of £109 2s. As this balance was so considerable the subscription was reduced to one pound—a lower sum than had been reached for many years. The number of dinners during the year had been twelve. They were attended by 174 diners, consisting of 153 members and 21 visitors. The smallest number at any dinner was eight.

The death of Sir Wyville Thomson was reported. Professor Huxley and Admiral Cooper Key desired to resign their membership. Three vacancies were thus created. One of these was filled by the re-election from the Supernumerary list of General Lefroy, who had returned from the last of his governorships, that of Tasmania. The other two places were filled by the election of William Crookes and General Pitt-Rivers.

It was arranged that the number of dinners in the ensuing year should again be twelve, one in each of the months of November, December, and March, two in January, February, April, and May, and one in June, the last being fixed as the Anniversary.

Sir William Crookes since his election into the Club has pursued his researches in chemistry and physics with unabated enthusiasm and success and has gained universal respect and esteem. His scientific brethren of the Royal Society have recognised the value of his original work by electing him a Fellow in 1863, by awarding him in succession

a Royal Medal in 1875, the Davy Medal in 1888, and the Copley Medal in 1904, and choosing him into the Council, electing him Foreign Secretary, and lastly placing him in the Chair of President. Nor has the State neglected to honour him. He was knighted in 1897, and the King has further conferred on him the prized distinction of the Order of Merit. In spite of his age he continues his investigations with the same patience, accuracy, and success.

Augustus Henry Lane-Fox Pitt-Rivers entered the army as an officer in the Grenadier Guards, served in the Crimea, and became Lieut.-General. He is best remembered as an anthropologist who made with great care an extensive collection in illustration of the progress of invention and civilisation which is now appropriately housed in the Pitt-Rivers Museum at Oxford. He likewise engaged in the exploration of various ancient sites in the south-west of England, of which he published descriptions. His archaeological and antiquarian ability was recognised by his receiving the appointment of the first Inspector of Ancient Monuments. He became F.R.S. in 1876.

On 11th May Professor Odling brought from Oxford to the dinner of the Club the brilliant Rector of Lincoln College, Mark Pattison, and on the same day the Treasurer, Dr. Gwyn Jeffreys, introduced Professor Giglioli from Florence. The "Mr. Murray" who was another of the Treasurer's guests on 16th was probably John Murray of the *Challenger* Expedition who, on the death of Sir Wyville Thomson, was put in charge of the whole arrangement and distribution of the vast collections made by that Expedition, and who successfully completed the publication of the great series of massive volumes in which the description of the work is comprised. Murray was the most accomplished oceanographer of his day, and his sudden death by a deplorable accident in 1914 was a severe blow to British science.

1883. At the Anniversary Meeting on June 21st 1883 there were present twenty-three members, and in the absence of the President, Warren De la Rue took the chair. The financial statement of the Treasurers reported that the

expenditure had amounted to £77 6s. 7d., leaving a balance of £89 19s. 5d. to be carried forward to next year's account. The subscription for the following year was fixed at one pound. The twelve dinners held in the course of the past year had been attended in all by 187 persons, whereof 166 were members. The largest attendance at any dinner was 28, the smallest six.

The death of Professor Henry J. S. Smith was announced.

One member, I. Lowthian Bell, lost his membership through non-attendance. There were thus two vacancies, which were filled by the election of Professor James Dewar and Professor George Murray Humphry.

It was agreed that there should be twelve meetings in the ensuing year, distributed as follows: one in each of the months of November, December, April and June, and two in January, February, March and May, the meeting on 19th June to be the Anniversary.

Professor Dewar at the time of his election into the Club had been for six years a Fellow of the Royal Society, and had already gained a high reputation as an original investigator of chemical problems. Since that time the volume of research which he has accomplished has grown into large dimensions. His entry into the domain of low-temperature experimentation opened up a new field of investigation which he has cultivated with remarkable success. The value of his labours has been amply recognised both at home and abroad. The Royal Society has awarded him the Rumford, Davy and Copley Medals, and has published the more important of his discoveries. He has been honoured with many distinctions by Universities and learned societies all over the world. In 1904 he had knighthood conferred on him. The successor of Davy, Faraday and Tyndall in the Fullerian Professorship, he has fully maintained the renown of the Royal Institution as a centre of active scientific discovery, and there he still labours with undiminished zeal.

Professor George Murray Humphry, surgeon and anatomist, was elected into the Royal Society in 1859. He

had already chosen Cambridge as the scene of his scientific life. There as far back as 1847 he was appointed to be Deputy-Professor of Anatomy, succeeding to the Professorship in 1866 and becoming Professor of Surgery in 1883. He was the life and soul of the medical school of Cambridge, which largely owes to him its flourishing renown. He was one of the most charming of companions, and to sit next him at the high table of King's College, Cambridge, or at the board of the Royal Society Club was a pleasure of which the memory was always treasured.

Six days after this Anniversary Meeting the President, William Spottiswoode, died, to the great regret of the Fellows of the Royal Society and the members of the Club. His last appearance at the Club was on the 19th April 1883. The Royal Society Council was convened at once to nominate a new President until St. Andrew's Day, and on 5th July Professor Huxley was selected for the office. He had resigned his membership of the Club in the preceding year, but on application to him the Treasurers ascertained that he would be willing to accede to the unanimous wish of the members that he should accept the Presidentship of the Club. Accordingly at the next meeting he was at once elected President. He was able to attend five meetings in the first half of the year 1884, and was prevailed on to come to the Anniversary in the following year. Unhappily, however, his health had begun to fail, and after two years of impaired activity, he in 1885 resigned his Presidentship and retired from public life, though he would still now and again flash his genius upon the world, as in his Romanes Lecture of 1893. He declined the offer of knighthood which had been made to him in recognition of his great services to science and to the progress of education. But at last in 1892, two years before he passed away, he accepted the honour of being made a Privy Councillor.

Among the visitors who this year appeared at the Club reference may here be made to Professor Bonamy Price, the well-known economist and Professor of Political Economy at Oxford who was introduced by Gwyn Jeffreys on 22nd

February. At the same meeting the sad news was announced of the death of his colleague, Professor Henry Smith, who was a much esteemed member of the Club. At the dinner on 15th March, when Warren De la Rue was chairman, the visitors included Professor Struve, Professor Gould, Mr. Creak of the Admiralty, Professor Morse, and Howard Grubb, famed for his astronomical instruments. At this dinner the Marquess of Salisbury was present as a member of the Club.

1884. The Anniversary Meeting in 1884, held on June 19th, was attended by twenty members, and in the absence of the President the chair was taken by Warren De la Rue. The expenditure of the past year was reported by the Treasurers to have amounted to £77 8s. 3d., leaving in their hands a balance of £73 17s. 2d. The subscription for the following year was fixed at £1. The number of dinners during the past year had again been twelve, and those who attended them numbered 178, being 159 members and 19 visitors. The largest attendance at any dinner was 23, the smallest eight.

The death of Sir Charles W. Siemens was announced.

Dr. T. A. Hirst expressed his wish to resign. There were consequently two vacancies. One of these was promptly filled by the re-election of Professor Sylvester, who having resigned his Professorship at Baltimore had returned to England and was desirous to be transferred from the Supernumerary list to that of the Ordinary membership. The remaining vacancy was filled from a list of nine candidates by the election of John Whitaker Hulke. It was resolved to retain the same number and distribution of the dinners throughout the coming session as had been arranged for last year.

J. W. Hulke, one of the surgeons who had served with the British army in the Crimea, was afterwards attached to the Middlesex Hospital, and was elected in 1893 President of the Royal College of Surgeons. He devoted much of his leisure time to the pursuit of vertebrate palaeontology, and wrote some important papers on the structure of the

Deinosaurs. He was thus specially drawn towards the Geological Society, of which he was for five years Treasurer and two years President. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1867.

Among the nineteen visitors this year, two stand out as conspicuous personalities—Alfred Newton and Captain William James Lloyd Wharton. One of the foremost zoologists of his day in this country and Professor of Zoology in the University of Cambridge, Alfred Newton was not only an eminent authority on his own subject, but his wide range of reading and his well-trained critical faculty made him also a shrewd judge in many other spheres of investigation. His "Dictionary of Birds," one of his latest works, forms an enduring monument not only of his great scientific acquirements but of his learning and his mastery of concise English. His rooms at Magdalene College were one of the centres of intellectual life at the University. His interest in undergraduates who showed any bent towards science led him to take infinite pains to help them. To many of them his Sunday evenings, even though blue with tobacco smoke, were memorable times in their college days. Those who knew him only as he appeared at Cambridge or at the meetings of the Royal Society would hardly have recognised him had they been spirited away to him on his annual yachting voyage, which he kept up as long as his health and strength allowed. Dressed in a grey tweed suit that had seen much service, perched on the most exposed part of the vessel, scorning a top-coat even in a gale of wind, with a pipe in his mouth and a canister of tobacco beside him, he lost, in the course of a few days, all trace of the pale scholar. His face glowed with a deep crimson tint and the skin on his nose began to curl up and flake off. And there he would sit for hours, watching every bird that passed, and with unfailing certainty and precision recognising each species and variety on the wing. He was on such occasions the most delightful companion, always cheerful in spite of wind and weather and his lameness, always

good-humoured, even when he fell to criticising the last lucubration of some contemporary from whom he differed in opinion.

Captain Wharton had a wide experience on surveying vessels in all regions of the globe, and he thus became one of the ablest hydrographers that our navy has ever had. It was therefore with much satisfaction that those who were interested in scientific oceanography saw him placed at the head of the hydrographical department of the Admiralty. He took great pains that the surveying officers under him should be trained to make scientific observations and should report to him what they might observe over and above what was strictly involved in their hydrographic work. Thus he arranged that not only books of reference, but collections of named specimens in natural history, particularly in rocks and minerals, should be supplied to every surveying vessel. He was an invaluable member of all Committees that had anything to do with the sea, such as expeditions to the Arctic or Antarctic regions. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1886, and to the end of his too short life he proved a most efficient and helpful member of that body.

1885. The senior Treasurer of the Club, Dr. J. Gwyn Jeffreys, died in January 1885 and a special meeting was called to elect a successor. At this meeting, which was held on February 19th, Warington Smyth, who was chairman, proposed, and Admiral Sir G. H. Richards, now senior Treasurer, seconded, that an expression be placed on record of the Club's "deep sense of the loss it had sustained in the death of their late senior Treasurer and of their high appreciation of the excellent services rendered by him during the period of nine years that he held the Treasurership, together with their respect for his character and warm regard for his memory." It was further proposed that Robert H. Scott should be elected a Treasurer of the Club. These propositions were unanimously agreed to, and thus began Mr. Scott's long and devoted service to the Club.

The Anniversary Meeting of 1885 was held on 18th June and the following members were then present :

Professor Huxley, President	
Admiral Sir John Dalrymple Hay	Dr. J. H. Gilbert
Admiral Sir Frederick J. Evans	Sir J. Henry Lefroy
Warren De la Rue	Dr. Joseph Prestwich
Dr. Hugo Müller	Captain Douglas Galton
Dr. Richard Quain	William Crookes
Professor George M. Humphry	Nevil S. Maskelyne
Dr. Russell	Sir William Armstrong
Sir Henry E. Roscoe	Warrington W. Smyth
John Marshall	Dr. J. H. Gladstone.
Sir William Bowman, Bart.	Robert H. Scott, Treas.

Admiral Sir George H. Richards, Treas.

The Treasurers' financial statement showed the expenses to have been £70 1s. 4d., leaving an unexpended balance of £61 19s. 10d. The subscription for the coming year was fixed at £1 10s. The number of dinners during the session just concluded was twelve, which had been attended by 148 persons, consisting of 135 members and 13 visitors. The largest attendance at any dinner was 20, the smallest five.

Resignations were received from Dr. Arthur Farre, who retired on the ground of increasing age and infirmity, and from Prof. Sylvester, who found that his residence out of London and the calls on his time prevented him from attending. He had been in 1883 appointed Savilian Professor of Geometry at Oxford and was now resident there.

There were consequently two vacancies. Out of a list of nine candidates the places were filled by the election of J. Norman Lockyer and the Rev. Thomas George Bonney.

The same number and arrangement of the dinners were continued as were followed last year.

At this meeting a proposal was made by the two Treasurers that Rule VI relating to absentees should be abolished. This met with some opposition, and as the result of a discussion the following modification of the Rule was finally adopted

by a large majority : " Any member who has not attended the Club at least once in any year shall be reminded of the circumstance, and if, in the course of the succeeding year, he do not once attend, he shall no longer be considered an ordinary member of the Club, but it shall still be open to the Club to elect him a Supernumerary member, provided that such Supernumerary member be not exempted from the annual contribution."

Rules III, IV, and V were modified in order to bring them into harmony with Resolutions which had been adopted in previous years.

The abolition of Rule XV, which was also agreed to, supplies an interesting commentary on the changed habits of the members of the Club. The Rule ran thus : " It is expected that those Members who may bring their servants will order them to assist generally in waiting at table." The writer of these pages can only remember one case of a member who was attended by his own servant at dinner and served by him with his own dry sherry.

From the dinner-register it appears that Professor Tyndall was in the chair at the first two dinners of the session, and Admiral Richards, the Treasurer, has noted that on both occasions the professor promoted the hilarity of the evening. Of the first dinner the note is : " Agreeable dinner ; Tyndall, rather brilliant, proposed the three toasts [The Queen, Arts and Sciences, The Royal Society] in rapid succession, at most three-quarters of a minute between first and last. Douglas Galton spoke of the desirability of reducing dinners to eight. [There were fourteen dining that evening.] He advocated a reprint of Smyth's " History of the Club." Of the second dinner the Treasurer reports : " Scientific discussion on the age of Port-wine introduced by the Chairman, with practical experiments by some of the members." But the proceedings were not all fooling, for according to the rules of the Club a new President had to be elected. Professor Huxley had resigned the Presidentship ten days before, and in accordance with its regulations the Club had to elect a successor. Professor George Gabriel Stokes had

been the choice of the Royal Society on St. Andrew's Day and Professor Tyndall now proposed that he should be elected President of the Club. This proposal was seconded by Admiral Richards and was carried unanimously by the six members present.

After an undergraduate career of remarkable brilliance George Gabriel Stokes soon took his place at the head of British mathematical physicists. His contributions to hydrodynamics and to the theory of light were of fundamental importance and have been the suggestive model for his followers in the same fields. He was appointed to the Lucasian Professorship in 1849 and was elected into the Royal Society in 1851. Next year the Society awarded him the Rumford Medal in recognition of his important papers on light. Two years later, as we have seen, he was elected Secretary to the Society. For thirty-two years he had held this responsible and often laborious position, conducting the business with great tact and skill and by his assiduous attention to the *Philosophical Transactions* and other publications of the Society, increasing their value and adding to the Society's reputation. With all this intimate experience of the inner working of the institution he was peculiarly fitted to preside over its Council and its meetings. From 1887 to 1891 he represented Cambridge University in Parliament, and though he was not a ready speaker he paid much attention to the business of the House of Commons and its Committees. In 1889 he was created a baronet, and in 1899 he celebrated his Jubilee as a Cambridge Professor, physicists of note and other leaders in science from all civilised countries coming to attend the festival. He was chosen Master of Pembroke College in 1902. He died in 1903 at the age of eighty-four years.

The two new members elected this year are fortunately still with us. J. Norman Lockyer has filled a prominent place in the ranks of those who have advanced our knowledge of the heavenly bodies by the applications of spectrum analysis; and as editor of *Nature* he has conferred a boon upon students and the general public by the care and

success with which he has conducted that valuable weekly publication.

Professor Bonney, Fellow and Tutor of St. John's College, Cambridge, for many years held the Professorship of Geology in University College, London. He has trained many students, not a few of whom have become excellent geologists. He retired from the London chair in 1900, and returned to Cambridge, where he still continues to devote himself with unfailing zeal to instruct post-graduate and undergraduate men in petrographical work. His pen also still continues active. He has enriched geological literature with many valuable papers and a number of separate volumes. His contributions have dealt largely with glaciers and glaciation, and with the microscopic structure of rocks.

1886. The Anniversary Meeting in 1886, which was held on June 17, was attended by twenty-one members, Warren De la Rue being Chairman. The Treasurers' financial statement showed the expenditure to have been £73 16s. 1d., leaving a balance of £77 9s. 9d. in their hands. The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed at one pound. The number of dinners during the past year was twelve. These had been attended by 157 persons, consisting of 137 members and 20 visitors. The largest attendance at any dinner was 22 at the Anniversary, the smallest seven, the average 13.

The Minutes record that three members died during the year, but omit to state who they were. They further report that there were no fewer than sixteen absentees under the new Rule VI., and add "the living ones were reminded." Letters were read from Professor Huxley, General Smythe and Professor Prestwich, resigning their membership.

The dates corresponding to those of last year were agreed upon for the meetings of the session 1886-87.

There were ten candidates on the list, from whom the following six were elected to fill the six vacancies which had arisen: Dr. John Hopkinson, Professor Robert Bel-lamy Clifton, Professor Henry Nottidge Moseley, Professor

Thomas Edward Thorpe, Professor Arthur William Rücker and Captain W. J. Ll. Wharton.

Professor Stokes was formally elected President and the two Treasurers were continued in their office. On the motion of Sir John Dalrymple Hay it was agreed that "Any gentleman who has filled the office of President of the Royal Society shall be considered an Honorary Member of the Club."

Of the six new members four were then actively engaged in the duties of teaching science as well as in original research.

Professor Clifton (F.R.S. 1868) was in 1860 elected a Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. After holding the Professorship of Natural Philosophy at Owens College, Manchester, he in 1865 accepted the Professorship of Experimental Philosophy at Oxford, from which he has recently retired. He has devoted himself to the development of physics as one of the studies of the University, and in this connection he designed and supervised the construction of the Clarendon Laboratory, which was the first established in England for practical instruction in physics.

Professor Moseley (F.R.S. 1877), educated at Harrow and Oxford, was one of the naturalists of the *Challenger* Expedition. He was much engaged in working out the zoological material collected during the voyage. Besides what he contributed to the volumes of the Reports, he published in 1879 a pleasant volume entitled "Notes by a Naturalist on the *Challenger*." In 1881 he was appointed Linacre Professor of Human and Comparative Anatomy in the University of Oxford. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1877. In 1878 he gave the Croonian Lecture, choosing as his subject a Family of Hydroid stony Corals. To the great loss of science he died in 1891.

Professor Thorpe (F.R.S. 1876) held at this time the Chair of Chemistry in the Royal College of Science. Subsequently he accepted the Directorship of the Government Laboratories in London, and after having retired from that office, generously returned for a short time to his former pro-

fessorship to assist the Royal College, which had now become the Imperial College of Science and Technology. He has been President of the Chemical Society and Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society. He is the author of a Dictionary of Chemistry and of some admirable volumes on the history of the science and the lives of some of its most eminent leaders. He was made C.B. in 1900 and knighted in 1909.

Arthur William Rücker (F.R.S. 1884), Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford, was this year appointed to the Professorship of Physics in the Royal College of Science, London, which in 1901 he relinquished in order to undertake the difficult duties of Principal of the University of London, which he discharged until 1908, when he retired. He was President of the British Association in 1901 and of the Physical Society in 1893, Secretary of the Royal Society for six years, and he served on several Royal Commissions on educational enquiries. He conducted in association with Professor Thorpe a magnetic survey of the British Isles. He was knighted in 1902. He filled an important place in the scientific life of his time, contributing by his own researches to the progress of physics, and by his admirable business qualifications to the efficient working of all the organisations with which he was connected. He died in 1915.

Captain Wharton's high claims to distinction have been already referred to (p. 439).

Of the twenty visitors who dined with the Club in the course of the year, allusion may be made here to Professor Brush of Yale University, who was introduced by Warrington Smyth. For many years he was one of the ablest mineralogists in the United States and taught with marked success at the Sheffield Scientific School, New Haven, over which he presided.

1887. The Anniversary Meeting of 1887, held on June 23, was attended by twenty members and Professor Stokes presided. The financial statement submitted by the Treasurers showed the expenses to have been £69 rs. 7d., leaving an available balance of £80 os. 2d. The subscription for

the ensuing year was again fixed at one pound. The number of dinners during the past session had been twelve, attended by 161 persons in all, comprising 149 members and 12 visitors. The largest attendance at any dinner was 21 (at the Anniversary), the smallest six.

Letters were read from Dr. Owen Rees resigning his membership owing to ill-health, from the Marquess of Salisbury and from the Right Hon. W. A. Smith, regretting their absence owing to the pressure of their public duties, and from Sir H. Lefroy, apologising on the ground of ill-health. The three excuses were accepted, and those who sent them were elected Supernumerary Members.

The Senior Treasurer then proposed the following addition to the Rules of which he had given notice at the meeting on 5th May: "No change shall be made in these Rules nor any new ones be proposed except by Resolution at the Anniversary Meeting, notice of which must be given at least two meetings of the Club previously."

He also moved that Rule VI should be modified as follows:

"Any Member who has not attended the Club at least once in any given year, shall be reminded of the circumstance, and if in the course of the succeeding year he does not once attend he shall no longer be considered an ordinary Member of the Club; but it shall be open to the Club to elect him a Supernumerary Member, provided that he be duly proposed and seconded and that a sufficient reason be given for his non-attendance, when he may be balloted for in the usual manner as for ordinary members, and if elected, will be liable for the annual subscription."

These proposed changes were unanimously adopted. The same arrangement of the meetings as had been followed during the last few years was again ordered for the ensuing session.

Four vacancies were declared, and these were filled by the election of Dr. Thomas Lauder Brunton, Sir Charles W. Wilson, K.C.B., Dr. George Harley, and Dr. George Johnson.

The President and two Treasurers were re-elected for the ensuing session. Of the new members three were

eminent physicians and one a distinguished ornament of the British Army.

Dr. Lauder Brunton was a survivor of the eminent group of men who studied medicine with him in the Edinburgh school some half-century ago. While enjoying a large practice and great eminence as a consultant, he found time also to carry on important investigations in therapeutics and other branches of medicine. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1874, knighted in 1900, and created baronet in 1908. He died in 1916.

Major-General Sir Charles William Wilson, K.C.B. (F.R.S. 1874), had a long and memorable career in the Royal Engineers. When quite a young man he was chosen to serve on the North American Boundary Commission, and his excellent work at that time led later to further employment under the Foreign Office, such as the Serbian Boundary Commission and as Military Consul-General in Anatolia and Commissioner in Eastern Rumelia. He was employed in surveying Palestine and Sinai, and the admirable quality of his topographic services led to his being appointed Director-General of the Ordnance Survey. His wide range of scientific acquirement specially fitted him to fill the post of Director-General of Military Education to which he was appointed. The army is also largely indebted to him for the foundation of its Intelligence Department. He was one of the most modest of men and a delightful companion, full of interesting reminiscence and genial sympathy.

Dr. George Harley, after taking his medical degree in Edinburgh in 1850, went to Paris to study physiology and chemistry. He became lecturer in physiology and histology at University College, and afterwards Professor of Medical Jurisprudence at the same institution. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1865.

Dr. George Johnson, medical graduate of London, became in 1850 a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, where he was successively appointed Gulstonian lecturer, Lumleian lecturer and Harveian orator. He was for many years one of the teaching staff connected with King's College

Hospital, and he added some fresh contributions to medical literature. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1872, and received knighthood from Queen Victoria, who also appointed him Physician-Extraordinary.

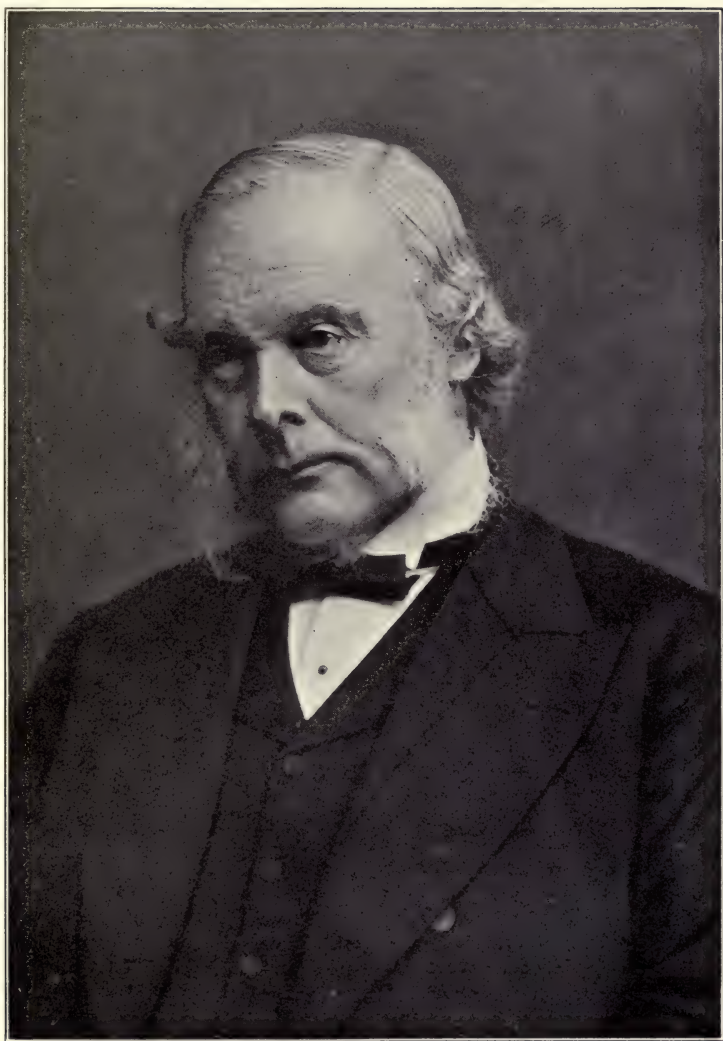
Among the twelve visitors to the Club who appeared for the first time this year were Alfred Bray Kempe, now Sir Alfred, the honoured Treasurer of the Royal Society, Dr. Barlow, now the well-known physician Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., K.C.V.O. ; Professor Tilden, now Sir William Augustus Tilden, emeritus Professor of Chemistry in the Imperial College of Science and Technology ; and the late Richard Lydekker, the able and prolific writer on mammals, extinct and recent, from all parts of the world, who died in 1915.

1888. At the Anniversary Meeting in 1888, which took place on 28th June, there were twenty-four members present and Sir William Bowman took the chair. The Treasurers reported that the expenditure had amounted to £67 3s. 1d. and that they had in hand a balance of £76 5s. 1d. The subscription was fixed again at one pound. Twelve dinners had been held during the session, attended by 140 persons, made up of 126 members and 14 visitors. The usual distribution of the twelve dinners for the ensuing session was continued.

There were no vacancies in the membership. Professor Stokes was re-elected President. Sir George Richards announced his resignation of the Treasurership and proposed J. Whitaker Hulke as his successor. This proposal was unanimously accepted and Mr. R. H. Scott was continued as the senior Treasurer. Five absentee members were reported as having been "reminded." There were no vacancies.

The visitors this year included Professor George Darwin and Professor Alexander Herschel.

George Darwin, son of the illustrious naturalist, was born in 1845. His distinguished academic success at Cambridge led to his election to a Fellowship at Trinity College. His first intention was to follow the profession of barrister, but indifferent health eventually led him to abandon that



LORD LISTER, O.M., F.R.S., 1860.

President, R.S., 1895-1900.

intention, and to settle in Cambridge in 1873. There he employed himself in literary as well as scientific pursuits, gradually moving into those regions of research into the early history of our planet with which his name will ever be associated. In 1883 he was elected Plumian Professor of Astronomy and Experimental Philosophy. The Royal Society, which had elected him a Fellow in 1879, awarded him a Royal Medal in 1884. He took much interest in one or two of the Society's Committees, served on the Council, and had he lived a year longer would not improbably have been chosen President. The Copley Medal was awarded to him in 1911. He died on 7th December, 1912, to the deep regret of a wide circle of friends whom his genial nature had drawn around him.

Professor Alexander Herschel was the son of Sir John F. W. Herschel. After his education at Cambridge he obtained a lectureship in Natural Philosophy at the Andersonian College, Glasgow, which after a few years he resigned in order to become Professor of Physics and Experimental Philosophy in the University of Durham, at the College of Science in Newcastle-on-Tyne. He devoted much time to the study of luminous meteors, which he pursued with ardour and success by personal observation of the heavens for more than half a century.

1889. In 1889 the Anniversary Meeting was held on June 27th, when twenty-two members were present, Sir William Bowman taking the chair. The statement by the Treasurers showed the expenditure to have been £66 11s. 7d., and that a balance of £71 13s. 6d. was carried forward. The subscription for the year 1889-90 was fixed as of late at £1. The twelve dinners held during the past session had been attended by 150 persons, of whom 131 were members and 19 visitors. The largest number at any dinner was, as usual, at the Anniversary, when 24 attended, the smallest attendance was six, the average being 12.5.

As all reference to the bill of fare at the dinners had for many years been rigidly excluded from the registers,

one is surprised to come upon an entry that revives the memory of Josiah Colebrooke. On January 10th it is recorded that "the menu included Hashed Venison from a Haunch presented to the Club by Professor John Marshall." There is no mention, however, of any bumpers of claret having been quaffed to the health of the donor. At the next meeting "a conversation took place as to a proposal for amalgamation with the Philosophical Club," and this subject continues to be noted as one of the topics discussed at the meetings.

The death was announced of J. F. Bateman, Warren De la Rue, and Dr. John Percy.

Letters of resignation had been received from Professor Moseley, Professor Humphry, and Sir J. H. Lefroy. The last named being a Supernumerary member, his resignation did not affect the Ordinary membership. There were consequently five vacancies, which were duly filled by the election of Captain Abney, Professor William Grylls Adams, Commander E. W. Creak, Alfred Bray Kempe, and Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney.

It was arranged to have twelve dinners distributed as in the last few years, except that there was to be no dinner in November but two in December.

Of the five new members three survive. Captain William de Wiveleslie Abney was for many years a member of the official staff of the Science and Art Department, afterwards named the Board of Education, of which he became the principal Assistant Secretary. He has been President of the Royal Astronomical and of the Physical Society. He is a high authority on photography and has given much attention to colour vision. He is a Knight Commander of the Bath. He became F.R.S. in 1876.

Alfred Bray Kempe is a Master of Arts of Trinity College, Cambridge, where he showed eminence in mathematics, to which science in his leisure hours he still devotes his attention. He is now a bencher of the Inner Temple and Chancellor of the Dioceses of London, Southwell, St. Albans, and Chelmsford. He has been the Treasurer and a Vice-Presi-

dent of the Royal Society since 1899, having been elected into the Society in 1881. He was knighted in 1912.

Commander Ettrick William Creak, R.N., was for many years attached to the Hydrographic Department of the Admiralty, where he became Superintendent of Compasses. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1885.

Professor William G. Adams, Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, was for many years Professor of Natural Philosophy and Astronomy in King's College, London. At one time President of the Society of Electrical Engineers, at another President of the Physical Society, he united full scientific knowledge of the problems of electricity with ample acquaintance with its practical applications. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1872. He died in 1915.

A few details of Sir Erasmus Ommanney's career have been already given (p. 419).

1890. The Anniversary Meeting on 26th June 1890¹ was attended by the following company :

The Right Honourable Sir John C. Dalrymple Hay, Bart. in the chair

Sir Frederick Abel
Professor W. G. Adams
Dr. T. Lauder Brunton
Professor R. B. Clifton
William Crookes
Dr. H. Debus
Professor James Dewar
Dr. J. H. Gilbert
Sir John Hawkshaw
Dr. George Johnson
A. B. Kempe
J. Norman Lockyer

Professor N. Story Maskelyne
Dr. Hugo Müller
Captain Andrew Noble
Professor Odling
Rev. Professor Price
Sir George H. Richards
Professor Arthur W. Rücker
Professor Edward T. Thorpe
Captain W. Wharton
R. H. Scott
J. W. Hulke

} Treasurers

The Treasurers reported that the expenditure since the last Anniversary had amounted to £61 9s. 1d., and that the balance remaining in their hands was £76 12s. 5d. The subscription of one pound, which had now become

¹ The meetings of the Club, which for at least twenty-three years had been held at Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James, were this year transferred to Limmer's Hotel, Conduit Street. They do not seem to have continued at St. James's Hall for more than four or five years. The oldest memorandum of dinners at Willis's Rooms is of date 3rd July, 1867.

usual, was again agreed to. It was further announced that the twelve dinners arranged for the session just closed had been duly held and had been attended by 149 diners, of whom 134 were members and 15 guests, the largest attendance being 22 at the Anniversary, and the smallest five.

Six absentees were reported as having had notice of their absence, but they had sent in excuses which were accepted as satisfactory. Lord Armstrong, on the near approach of his eightieth birthday, was unanimously elected an Honorary Member.

The death of Sir Warrington W. Smyth on 19th June was announced.

Professor Tyndall sent a letter of resignation, which was accepted with regret.

Three vacancies were declared. It was stated that Archibald Geikie had been elected Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society, and was willing to join the Club as an *ex-officio* member. His name having been proposed and seconded, he was unanimously elected an Official member. In the subsequent voting Sir William Scovell Savory, Bart., Lazarus Fletcher, and Dr. Clifford Allbutt were elected.

The provisional arrangement of the twelve dinners in the ensuing session was to have one in each of the months of November, December, May and June, and two in January, February, March and April.

A motion was made "That the Philosophical Club be approached with the object of arranging for a common dinner of both Clubs." This motion was carried by a majority of nine to five. A desire was expressed by several members that, if possible, more dinners should be fixed for the winter season and fewer for the summer.

Of the four new members three are still on the Club's list. Archibald Geikie, after holding the Foreign Secretaryship of the Royal Society for the period of four years, which has now become the customary tenure, was in 1903 elected one of the principal Secretaries. In 1908 he was chosen President of the Society, and it is his hand which is now penning these Annals of the Royal Society Club.

Dr. T. Clifford Allbutt has been the Regius Professor of Physic in Cambridge University for nearly a quarter of a century and is one of the most eminent physicians in the country. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1880. The honour of Knight Commander of the Bath was conferred on him in 1907.

Lazarus Fletcher, M.A., now Director of the Natural History Department of the British Museum, is one of the most accomplished mineralogists in this country. The mineral galleries of the Museum, of which he had immediate charge for some nineteen years, bear witness to his mastery of his subject and to his power of skilful and tasteful arrangement. In recognition of his services to science and the State he was knighted in 1915.

Sir William Savory, surgeon, studied at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and afterwards lectured there on general anatomy and surgery. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1852, and was President for four years from 1885 to 1889. He looked with disfavour on the introduction of antiseptic treatment in surgery. Appointed Surgeon-Extraordinary to Queen Victoria in 1887, he was created a baronet three years later. He became F.R.S. in 1858. He died in 1895.

The visitors included a few who became conspicuous in the world of science. Among these was John Viriamu Jones, who in 1881, at the early age of five-and-twenty, was appointed Principal and Professor of Mathematics and Physics in the Firth College, Sheffield, and two years later was chosen the first Principal of the University College of South Wales. He died in 1901, to the deep grief of all who knew him and to the heavy loss of the science of electricity, to which he had devoted his fine talents. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1894.

Herbert H. Turner, introduced by the Astronomer Royal, was three years afterwards appointed Savilian Professor of Astronomy at Oxford University, an office which he still worthily holds.

Edward A. Schäfer, who came on May 1st as the guest of

Burdon Sanderson, was then Jodrell Professor of Physiology in University College, London, an appointment from which he retired in 1899 to accept the corresponding chair in the University of Edinburgh, where his success as an inspiring teacher continues to maintain the reputation of that medical school. He was knighted in 1913.

At the Meeting of the Club at Limmer's Hotel on December 18 the question of the Presidentship of the Club was considered. Sir George Stokes, having held for the now customary period of five years the office of President, had retired from it on 30th November, and the Society had elected Sir William Thomson (better known now as Lord Kelvin) as his successor. The meeting having ascertained from Sir William that he was willing to accept the Presidentship of the Club, unanimously elected him to the office. It was further agreed that Sir George Stokes' name should be transferred to the list of Honorary Members as a Past President.

The Treasurers further reported that as the result of a correspondence with the Treasurer of the Philosophical Society it had been arranged to hold a joint dinner of the two Clubs at Limmer's Hotel on Thursday, March 12, 1891.

CHAPTER XIV

PRESIDENTSHIPS OF LORD KELVIN, LORD LISTER AND SIR WILLIAM HUGGINS, 1890-1902

WHEN the Royal Society chose Sir William Thomson as its President it placed at its head the most brilliant natural philosopher who had sat in its presidential chair since Isaac Newton quitted it. Every department of physics upon which he flashed his original genius was at once illuminated and enlarged. Not only did he display consummate power in the investigation of the most subtle problems in thermodynamics, hydrodynamics, electricity and magnetism, but his fertile invention and mechanical faculty enabled him to devise the most accurate and delicate instruments for scientific research. While his sweep of vision reached far beyond the ken of most of his contemporaries, he never lost sight of the practical applications of his work. At one time he would reveal the secret of the problem of transmitting messages through transoceanic electric cables, at another time he would construct a new type of mariner's compass which would supersede all previous forms. And with all this range and fertility of thought he remained one of the most modest of men, ever anxious to learn from others what they could tell him from departments of knowledge outside his own immediate purview.

At the time of his entering on his Presidentship he was still the active Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Glasgow, as he had been for forty-four years. But notwithstanding the distance of his class-room and laboratory from Burlington House, which had many years before proved

so great a hindrance to his visits to London, he was now able to attend to his duties at the Royal Society and at the Club with hardly less assiduity than that of many of his predecessors who resided in London. He used to say that he could sleep in an express train even better than in his own bed. Hence, after a night journey he would appear quite fresh at a Council meeting, and if need be, another night journey would bring him in time for his morning lecture at the Glasgow University, after an absence of only a single day.

1891. The combined dinner of this Club with the Philosophical Club, which was agreed to on December 18th, 1890, took place on 12th March following, with Sir William Thomson in the chair. There were forty-three persons present, consisting of nineteen who were members of both Clubs, five who belonged to the Philosophical Club only, seventeen who belonged to the Royal Society Club only, and two guests. As this meeting was the herald of the ultimate fusion of the two Clubs, the names of the company may be given here :

Sir William Thomson			
Belonging to both Clubs	Professor F. Fuller (guest)	Philosophical Club only	William T. Blanford
	Professor Michael Foster		Professor Hughes
	John Evans		Sir George M. Humphry
	Dr. Hugo Müller		General Strachey
	Sir William Bowman		Professor J. W. Judd, Treasurer
	Sir Frederick Abel	Royal Society Club only	Lazurus Fletcher
	Francis Galton		Rev. H. Gurney (guest)
	Rev. T. G. Bonney		Dr. George Harley
	Professor James Dewar		Alfred B. Kempe
	Professor A. W. Williamson		Dr. J. H. Gilbert
Lord Rayleigh	Dr. William J. Russell		
Sir George Stokes	Professor Edward T. Thorpe		
Sir Frederick Bramwell	Dr. Lauder Brunton		
Professor W. G. Adams	Professor J. H. Gladstone		
Archibald Geikie	Captain W. J. L. Wharton		
William Crookes	J. Norman Lockyer		
Nevil Story Maskelyne	Sir Richard Quain		
Professor Odling	W. H. M. Christie		
Captain Abney	John Hopkinson		
Professor A. Rücker	Sir William Savory		
	J. W. Hulke	Treasurers	
	Robert H. Scott		

The minute-book records no further details of the meeting than that the three toasts of the Royal Society Club were honoured.

The Anniversary Meeting of this year was held on 25th June, when twenty-nine members were present, with Sir William Bowman in the chair. The Treasurers reported that the expenditure since the last Anniversary had amounted to £74 3s 5d., leaving in their hands a balance of £70 19s. The subscription for the ensuing session was fixed at the now customary sum of £1, and there were no arrears of subscription.

The usual number of twelve dinners had been duly held. They were attended by 165 persons, consisting of 150 members and 15 guests. The largest attendance was 24 (the Anniversary dinner) and the smallest seven. The extra dinner with the Philosophical Club was not included in these figures.

Two deaths were announced, those of Professor John Marshall and of Sir John Hawkshaw.

In the case of absentees no further action required to be taken. Dr. Debus was at his request placed on the Supernumerary list during his absence in Germany.

Three vacancies were declared. There were five candidates. As the result of the voting Professor George Downing Liveing and Professor Arnold W. Reinold were elected, and the third place was not filled.

The number and dates of the meetings were provisionally arranged nearly as last year. It had not been found practicable to transfer some of the dinners from summer to winter, as had been suggested at last Anniversary Meeting, there being no available meeting days of the Royal Society to admit of the alteration.

The Meeting took into consideration a letter from the Treasurer of the Philosophical Club submitting the following resolution of that Club :

" That a joint Committee be formed to consider the relations of the two Clubs ; that Sir William Bowman, as the oldest member of the Royal Society Club, and one of the three surviving original

members of the Philosophical Club be invited to act as chairman of this Committee ; that each Club should select five other members, two of these being members of both Clubs, and the three others members of the particular Club ; and that this Committee of eleven should submit its recommendations to both Clubs."

The proposals thus submitted were accepted by the Anniversary Meeting. The two Treasurers, with the Astronomer Royal, were chosen to represent the Royal Society Club, and Sir Archibald Geikie and Professor Rücker were selected as representatives of both Clubs, and the Treasurers were instructed to send this information to the Philosophical Club. The question of the union of the two Clubs continued for some months to be a frequent subject of conversation at the Royal Society Club, but the action taken by this Club at the Anniversary of 1892 postponed the matter for some years.

Sir William Thomson was re-elected President of the Club, and R. H. Scott and J. W. Hulke were continued as Treasurers.

Regarding the new members a few words should be added here. Professor Liveing has long been held in great esteem not only by his fellow chemists but by men in all branches of science who have either come into personal contact with him or have knowledge of his important services at Cambridge in the development of practical scientific teaching. He became F.R.S. in 1879. For almost half a century he was Professor of Chemistry in the University, and though he resigned that important office in 1908 his influence as President of St. John's College continues to be felt.

Professor Reinold, Fellow of Merton College, Oxford, was elected into the Royal Society in 1883. He has been Lee's Reader in Physics at Christchurch, Professor of Physics at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, and President of the Physical Society.

The two dozen guests this year included two conspicuous names, "Mr. Gill of Capetown" and "J. Bryce, M.P." As the Astronomer-Royal at the Cape of Good Hope, David Gill spent more than a quarter of a century in the delicate

and engrossing labours of the observatory. When he returned to Europe he was the recipient of many honours in testimony of the high value of his astronomical work, and he began a fresh life of activity in connection with the various societies and institutions with which he was connected. He had received in 1900, while still at the Cape, the honour of K.C.B. The Royal Society awarded him a Royal Medal, the Royal Astronomical Society similarly distinguished him, and he received recognition from many academies abroad. He was President of the British Association in 1907. Sir David Gill was everywhere esteemed as a pleasant and interesting companion, and his death in 1914 was a great loss to the scientific community and a deep grief to his many personal friends.

"J. Bryce, M.P.," at that time member for Aberdeen, now Viscount Bryce, has since those times enriched literature with fresh volumes, has served the country in many ways, above all in cementing closer the bonds of friendship and goodwill between Britain and the United States by his admirable discharge of the duties of our Ambassador-Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Washington for five years, and by his great work on "*The American Commonwealth*." He is one of the few literary Fellows of the Royal Society, and has inherited from his father a warm regard for the interests of science.

1892. At the Anniversary Meeting in 1892, held on 23rd June, there were thirty-one members present, and in the absence of the President, Francis Galton occupied the chair. The financial statement of the Treasurers showed that the expenditure of the past session amounted to £72 14s. 8d., and that they had in hand a balance of £65 3s. 4d. The twelve dinners which had been held were attended by 162 diners, of whom 142 were members and 20 guests. Five absentees were reported. One of these, Professor Williamson, now living in the country, resigned his membership. Letters of apology were received from the others, who were all re-elected. The subscription for the ensuing year was again fixed at £1.

The Report of the Joint-Committee appointed to consider the amalgamation of the Royal Society Club and the Philosophical Club was submitted to this meeting and fully discussed. The Committee as ultimately arranged was constituted as follows :

Sir W. Bowman, Bart., *Chairman*

Rev. Prof. Bonney,	}	<i>Representing both Clubs.</i>
Mr. F. Galton,		
Sir A. Geikie,		
Prof. Rücker,		
The Astronomer Royal,	}	<i>Representing the Royal Society Club.</i>
Mr. Hulke,		
Mr. Scott,		
Mr. W. T. Blandford,	}	<i>Representing the Philosophical Club.</i>
General Strachey,		
Prof. Judd, <i>Treasurer,</i>		

The Committee held two meetings.

At their first meeting they decided that, in their opinion, it was desirable that a Dinner should take place on each evening of an Ordinary Meeting of the Society, but that each Club should retain its own individuality and peculiar rules and customs. Further, that any change that might be made should be first tried as an experiment for one year.

At their second meeting they came to the conclusion that if the Members of either Club were allowed to dine at any Ordinary Meeting of the other Club, the average attendance need not be anticipated to exceed 20, and that consequently a uniform subscription of £2 would probably suffice to meet the cost.

The Committee agreed finally to submit to the two Clubs the following conclusions at which they had arrived :

1. That it is desirable that the number of Dinners be divided, as nearly as possible, equally between the two Clubs.
2. That each Member should pay for his Dinner 10s., as at present.
3. That every Member of the Clubs shall pay the same annual subscription.
4. That in the case of those who belong to both Clubs, half of the subscription should be paid to the Treasurer of each Club.
5. That each Club be requested to suspend the operation of its rules for the Session, so far as these interfere with the carrying out of the experimental scheme, above intimated, for the Session 1892-93.

The following resolution, which was originally proposed by Sir William Bowman (who to the deepest regret of the

Club died on 29th March), had been notified at two ordinary meetings of the Club in accordance with the Rules and was now formally moved by the Senior Treasurer :

“ That the Joint Committee of the Royal Society and the Philosophical Clubs be requested to carry out for one year the scheme which has been submitted by them ; and that the operation of any rules of the Royal Society Club which would interfere with the carrying out of the experimental scheme be suspended during the ensuing Session 1892-93.”

After some discussion this resolution was put from the chair to be voted on by a show of hands, when eleven voted for it and fourteen against. The Chairman accordingly declared the motion to be lost.

The Treasurers reported that a parcel containing 125 copies of Admiral Smyth's “ Sketch of the Rise and Progress of the Royal Society Club ” in sheets had been discovered stored in Burlington House, and that they had had them bound and were issuing them to members at 5s. per copy. Their action was approved.

They further intimated to the meeting that, by permission of the President and Council of the Royal Society, they had deposited at the Society's rooms in Burlington House the old Ballot-box containing the records of the Club since its establishment. At the same time they read a list of the documents contained in the box, all which are still (1917) extant. The action of the Treasurers in this matter was approved and the box has since remained in the custody of the Royal Society. At the end of 1915 it was removed by the Senior Treasurer and brought to the residence at Haslemere of the writer of this volume, who, when the volume is completed, will return the box and its contents to the custody of the Royal Society at Burlington House.

To the vacancy caused by the death of Sir William Bowman there was to be added that which was left unfilled at last Anniversary. There were nine candidates. After several successive ballots only one candidate was elected—Andrew Ainslie Common, who had become F.R.S. in 1885.

The meetings for the following session were fixed to be

twelve in number and to be distributed one in each of the months of November, December, January, April and May, two in March and June, and three in February, the Anniversary being fixed for the June meeting.

Lord Kelvin was re-elected President and R. H. Scott and J. W. Hulke were continued as Treasurers.

Among the guests of the year reference may be made to Dr. Norman Moore, historiographer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital and most learned and genial of physicians, and to Professor Angelo Mosso, the eminent physiologist of Turin.

1893. The Anniversary in 1893, held on June 22nd, was attended by twenty-nine members, Lord Kelvin presiding. The Treasurers reported that the expenditure during the past session had been £61 15s. 7d., and that they had in hand a balance of £61 9s. 9d. The contribution for the following year was fixed at £1. The twelve dinners arranged for had been duly held, and had been attended by 154 persons, comprising 136 members and 18 guests.

Three vacancies were declared and there were nine candidates. As the result of several successive ballots only two of the places were filled by the election of Rev. William Henry Dallinger and William Chandler Roberts-Austen.

W. H. Dallinger entered the Wesleyan ministry in 1861 and became Principal of Wesley College, Sheffield, but resigned that office in 1888 in order to devote himself to biological research. He established a microscopical laboratory near London for the purpose of studying the life-history of the minuter forms of life. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1880. He died in 1909.

Professor Roberts-Austen distinguished himself when a student at the Royal School of Mines in London and thereby attracted the notice of Thomas Graham, Master of the Mint, who took him into his staff and engaged with him in important researches. On Graham's death in 1869 he was made Assayer to the Mint, and in 1882 was appointed Queen's Assay-master. He also held from 1880 the Chair of Metallurgy in the Royal School of Mines. He wrote some valuable papers on metals in the *Philosophical Transactions* and other

publications. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1875. He was created K.C.B. in 1899.

Among the guests at the ordinary dinners this year the only foreigner recorded was Professor Dr. Theodor Liebisch, the German mineralogist and petrographer, who was introduced by the Keeper of the Mineral Collection in the British Museum. Dr. David Gill was again a visitor to the Club in March and April.

On the 16th of November this year the Club met at Limmer's Hotel to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of its foundation. It was arranged that the Bill of Fare and the price of the Dinner (1s. 6d.) should be the same as were usual for the Club at the date of its foundation, and the oldest *menu* which had been preserved, that of March 24th 1747 (which has been given on p. 26), was followed as closely as might be. The attendance was large; out of the total number (sixty-one) of members of the Club only seventeen were absent and many of these (including Lord Kelvin, the Marquess of Salisbury, Sir Richard Quain, Sir Andrew Noble, Prof. Clifton, Prof. Thorpe, Captain Abney and Prof. Adams) sent apologetic letters explaining the cause of their absence. The following is the list of the company, which numbered sixty-seven in all. The names in *italics* are those of guests, and in each case the guest was invited by the member whose name occurs immediately above :

Sir Douglas Galton, in the Chair

The Astronomer Royal	Andrew A. Common
<i>H. H. Turner</i>	<i>H. A. Gore Browne</i>
Sir John Evans	Captain E. W. Creak
Prof. Michael Foster	William Crookes
Sir Archibald Geikie	<i>Joseph Crookes</i>
<i>J. J. H. Teall</i>	W. H. Dallinger
Lord Rayleigh	Prof. James Dewar
Sir Frederick Abel	<i>Dr. Ludwig Mond</i>
<i>M. Carteighe</i>	L. Fletcher
Wollaston Blake	<i>W. Bewsher</i>
Rev. Professor Bonney	A. W. Franks
<i>Dr. W. T. Blanford</i>	<i>Sir H. Howorth</i>
Dr. T. Lauder Brunton	Francis Galton
Prof. T. Clifford Allbutt	<i>General Richard Strachey</i>
<i>Prof. George Darwin</i>	Dr. J. H. Gladstone

A. G. Vernon Harcourt
 Dr. G. Harley
V. Harley
 Admiral Sir John D. Hay
Canon Blackley
 Dr. J. Hopkinson
General Festing
 J. W. Hulke, Treasurer
Prof. J. W. Judd
 Alfred B. Kempe
 Prof. G. D. Liveing
 J. Norman Lockyer
F. Elgar
 N. Story Maskelyne
 Dr. Hugo Müller
 Admiral Sir E. Ommaney
 Dr. W. Pole
 Captain Wharton

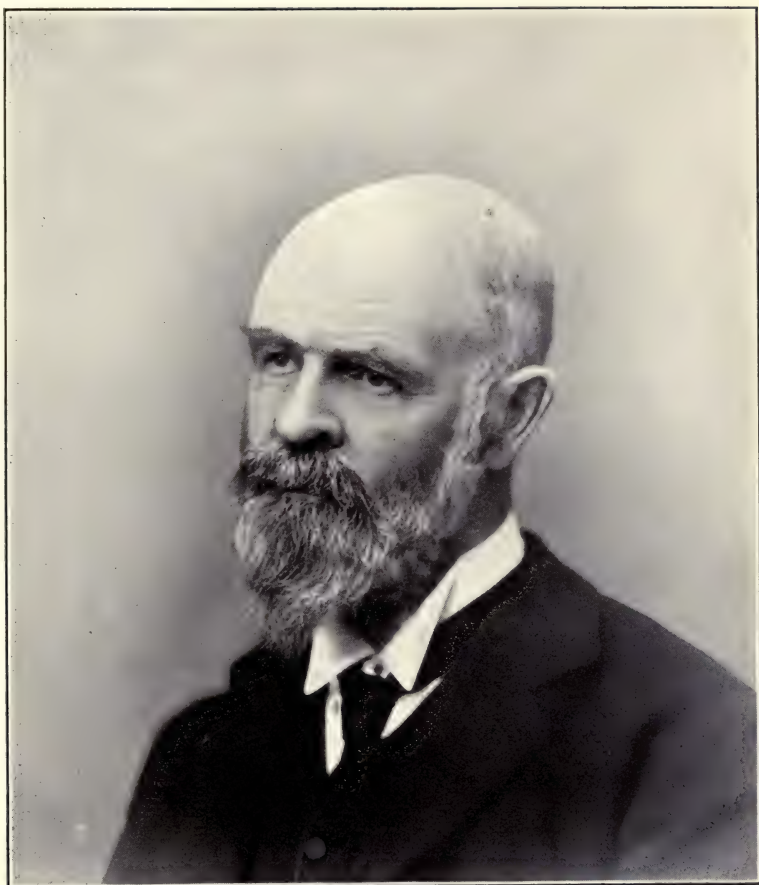
Dr. Bonamy Price
Dr. W. Playfair
 Prof. A. Reinold
 Admiral Sir G. H. Richards
 Professor Roberts-Austen
C. H. Davies
 Sir Frederick Bramwell
Dr. Garrard
 Prof. A. W. Rücker
Arnold Foster
 Dr. W. J. Russell
 Prof. J. S. Burdon Sanderson
A. D. Waller
 P. L. Sclater
W. L. Sclater
 R. H. Scott, Treasurer
Major J. S. S. Barker
 Sir Charles Wilson

Prevented from attendance by illness, Sir Andrew Noble, in memory of old times, sent a haunch of venison, for which thanks were voted by the Club. The three customary toasts were given, and in consonance with the habits of the founders of the Club, some "Huff-ale" from Winchester College was supplied by one member, which proved so potent as well as pleasant that one of the chemists present was requested to carry away a small quantity of it to test it for the percentage of its alcohol.¹

1894. At the Anniversary Meeting held on June 28, 1894, twenty-nine members were present and Admiral Sir George H. Richards was in the chair. The Treasurers' statement reported that the expenditure had been £76 12s. 8d., leaving in their hands a balance of £47 1s. 1d. The contribution of £1 for the ensuing session was again agreed upon. The twelve usual dinners of the year (excluding that of November 16th) had been attended by 208 persons, of whom 169 were members and 39 were guests.

Sir Joseph Lister, having been elected Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society and having expressed his willingness

¹ This fine old ale had been ten years in bottle. An elaborate analysis of its composition was made at the Government laboratory which proved it to be the strongest ale that had ever been examined there. It contained a percentage of 11.72 by weight of absolute alcohol.



ROBERT HENRY SCOTT, F.R.S., 1870.

One of the Treasurers of the Club from 1885 to 1902.

to join the Club, was unanimously elected an *ex-officio* Member. No vacancies in the ordinary membership had occurred during the year, nor were there any absentees.

The most eminent guest whose name is recorded in this year's register was Samuel Henry Butcher, Member of Parliament for Cambridge University, and one of the finest classical scholars of his day, who came on the invitation of the kindly old Admiral Sir John Dalrymple Hay. Educated at Cambridge and obtaining high honours with a Fellowship at Trinity College, he was for some years Classical Lecturer at Oxford till in 1882 he was elected to the Professorship of Greek at the University of Edinburgh, where he remained till 1903. In 1906 he was elected for Cambridge University, and became an active and valuable representative of education in the House of Commons. His classical essays and translations were marked by great distinction and charm. To the serious loss of the cause of higher education and to the great sorrow of all who knew him, he was unexpectedly cut off by a short illness in 1910.

1895. The early part of the year 1895 was darkened for the Club by the unexpected death of its junior Treasurer, J. W. Hulke, from an attack of pneumonia. He had been seven years in office and during that time, by his gentle courtesy and aptitude for business, he had gained the respect and esteem of all the members. The vacant Treasurership was filled on March 7th by the election of Professor Thomas Edward Thorpe.

The Anniversary Meeting this year was held as usual at Limmer's Hotel on 27th June, when the following company was present :

Admiral Sir George H. Richards, K.C.B., in the Chair	
Sir Charles W. Wilson, K.C.B.	Alfred B. Kempe
Sir J. H. Gilbert	A. G. Vernon-Harcourt
Sir Richard Quain, Bart.	H. Wollaston Blake
Rear Admiral Wharton	Professor Liveing
Professor A. W. Rücker	L. Fletcher
William Crookes	J. Norman Lockyer
Professor Roberts-Austen	Dr. Lauder Brunton
Dr. George Harley	Dr. W. J. Russell
Professor Clifford-Allbutt	R. H. Scott
Dr. Hugo Müller	T. E. Thorpe
	} Treasurers

The statement submitted by the Treasurers showed the expenditure to have been £62 11s. 8d., leaving an available balance of £43 16s. 5d. to be carried forward. It was resolved that the contribution for the ensuing year should be £1. The usual twelve dinners had been duly held and were attended by 181 persons, of whom 158 were members and 23 guests. The smallest number at any dinner had been six.

Two members of the Club died during the year: J. W. Hulke and Sir William Savory. Three members had reached the age of fourscore and were therefore entitled to be placed in the Honorary List—H. Wollaston Blake, Admiral Sir Erasmus Ommanney, and Dr. W. Pole.

There were therefore five vacancies, and the list of candidates contained five names. As the result of the voting Professor Charles Vernon Boys, Major Percy Alexander MacMahon, R.A., Professor Oliver Lodge, and Professor William Ramsay were duly elected.

Twelve dinners were sanctioned for the ensuing session, to be held on dates similar to those of recent years.

Of the four new members only one has since passed away—William Ramsay. This distinguished and much regretted chemist, born in Glasgow in 1852, was educated at the University there and at Tübingen under Fittig. In 1880 he was appointed Professor of Chemistry in University College, Bristol, and Principal of that institution in the following year. He became Professor in University College, London, in 1887. Of his many original contributions to chemical science the most widely known was his investigation in conjunction with Lord Rayleigh which led to the detection of the new element Argon in the atmosphere. In continuing this research he subsequently discovered other gaseous elements in the air—helium, neon, crypton. Ramsay received many honours from all parts of the world in recognition of the value of his labours. He was made K.C.B., was awarded the Nobel Prize, and received the Prussian order Pour le Mérite. He was cut off by a painful illness in 1916 in the sixty-fourth year of his age.

Charles Vernon Boys, Associate of the Royal School of Mines, was for some years Demonstrator and Assistant Professor of Physics at the Normal School of Science, South Kensington. He is one of the most inventive members of the Club and one of the most successful experimenters of the day. He is the author of some valuable contributions to science on soap-bubbles, quartz-fibres, radio-micrometers, the measurement of the Newtonian Constant of Gravitation and other subjects. He repeated the torsion-balance measurement of Michell and Cavendish with a delicacy and accuracy never before attained.

The guests this year included William Ramsay, who dined on the invitation of William Crookes on 31st January, six months before his election into the Club. It is recorded in the dinner-register that after the three usual toasts had been given J. W. Hulke, the Junior Treasurer, took advantage of the presence of one of the discoverers of Argon to propose as a further toast—"The infant Argon, and may his future surpass the most sanguine expectations of his parents." The toast was drunk with enthusiasm, and Professor Ramsay said a few words in reply.

Another distinguished visitor came to the dinner on May 9th as the guest of Francis Galton—Professor Walter Frank Raphael Weldon. This accomplished naturalist had passed with great distinction in the Natural Sciences Tripos at Cambridge and after some busy years, devoted chiefly to morphological work, had turned to the investigation of the problems of the variation and correlation of living things. He became F.R.S. in 1890. He died in 1906 worn out with the incessant ardour of research, when only forty-six years of age.

J. Bell Pettigrew, another of the visitors this year who are no longer living, was Professor of Medicine and Anatomy and Dean of the Medical Faculty in the University of St. Andrews. He wrote much on the subject of animal locomotion in walking, swimming, and flying, and made careful studies of the physiology of wings in Insects, Birds, and Bats. His volume on "Animal Locomotion" passed

through more than one edition and has been translated into several foreign languages. He became F.R.S. in 1868.

On 30th November, according to the understanding which the Council of the Royal Society adopted a few years before, that the tenure of the Presidentship should not exceed a period of five years, Lord Kelvin resigned his office and Sir Joseph Lister, Foreign Secretary, was chosen as his successor. Thus two changes were brought about in the Club, which were considered at the meeting on December 5th. The Treasurer was then able to announce that the new President was willing to accept the Presidency of the Club, and he was accordingly at once elected by acclamation. The name of Lord Kelvin, as that of a past President, was transferred to the Honorary List.

Professor Edward Frankland was elected Foreign Secretary of the Society in succession to Lord Lister. He had expressed his wish to rejoin the Club, of which he had resigned the membership in 1867. There was a difference of opinion at the meeting as to whether the Foreign Secretary could be immediately admitted under Rule I. or must wait until the next Anniversary Meeting. An equal number of members voted for and against immediate election, and the Chairman (Sir John Dalrymple Hay) gave his casting vote against it. Whereupon notice was given to be circulated among the members that at the next meeting it would be proposed "that Rule I. shall be interpreted to mean that the Officers of the Royal Society are entitled to join the Club at once on expressing their intention to take advantage of the privilege conferred by that Rule."

At the next meeting (January 16, 1896) the Senior Treasurer reported that he had consulted one of the members, Alfred B. Kempe, a counsel learned in the law, who was of opinion that the resolution proposed at the previous meeting could not be considered as a suggested change in the rules of the Club, but that any person entitled *ex-officio* to be a member of the Club must be immediately admitted on the intimation of his wish to join. Professor Frankland was consequently with unanimity admitted as a Member.

1896. The Anniversary Meeting of 1896 was held on 25th June and was attended by twenty-seven members with Sir John Dalrymple Hay as Chairman. The Treasurers' ¹ statement gave the expenses to have been £64 7s. and the balance in hand to be £45 17s. 5d. The contribution for the coming session was fixed at £1, which had now become the usual sum. At the twelve dinners in the course of the year the attendance was 204, made up of 169 members and 35 guests.

General Pitt-Rivers resigned his membership on account of the state of his health, which prevented him from coming to London.

Including the place that was not filled up last year there were two vacancies. Out of the five candidates on the list the choice of the meeting fell upon Professor G. Cary Foster and Professor Victor A. H. Horsley, who were declared duly elected.

Professor Cary Foster was the distinguished Professor of Physics in University College, London, from 1865 to 1893 and Principal of the College from 1900 to 1904. He has now retired from active life. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1869.

Professor Horsley (F.R.S. 1886), Emeritus Professor of Clinical Surgery and Consulting Surgeon at University College Hospital, gained a high reputation in his profession and made some important discoveries, particularly in regard to the functions of the thyroid gland. He was knighted in 1902. He took a keen interest in all movements which he thought would advance the welfare of the community. He was one of those medical men in large practice who generously went to France early in the War to give their services to the sick and wounded. In this noble effort he lost his life.

¹ Only the senior Treasurer was present on this occasion, his junior colleague having met with a slight bicycling accident. The incident gave rise to the following motion which was proposed and carried at this meeting: "That while expressing profound sympathy with its absent Treasurer, the Club would suggest that in future its Treasurers should not indulge in the folly of bicycling, particularly in the use of feminine bicycles."

Two notable foreigners visited the Club on June 11th—Henri Moissan, a distinguished French chemist, author of researches among the metallic oxides and on the origin of the diamond. When he detected minute diamonds in the Cañon Diablo meteorite he shrewdly divined that the carbon must have been originally dissolved in the liquid iron and that by the sudden cooling of the outer portion of the meteorite great pressure resulted on the still molten portion inside, the carbon segregating into grains that assumed a crystalline form. To test the validity of this explanation he experimented with his electric furnace and produced true diamonds. The Royal Society in recognition of the value of his contributions to chemical science elected him one of its foreign members in 1905, and awarded him the Davy Medal in the following year. In 1906 he was the recipient of the Nobel Prize for Chemistry. He died in 1907 at the age of only fifty-five years.

Dr. Wilhelm Ostwald is an eminent German chemist, an honorary graduate of several universities in this country, and well-known among scientific men in England.

One of the home guests this year was Sir Herbert Maxwell, whose presence at the Club was no doubt more immediately due to the personal friendship between him and his host, Sir John Dalrymple Hay, both neighbours and owning estates in Wigtonshire. Sir Herbert is the most versatile of Scottish lairds. He was sixteen years in Parliament, is a Privy Councillor and has been chairman of more than one Royal Commission. Antiquary, historian, naturalist, sportsman, skilled gardener and forester, and fond of open-air life, he is also gifted with literary skill, and has published many volumes which make pleasant reading.

1897. In 1897 the Anniversary Meeting, held on 24th June, was attended by twenty-nine members, and Sir Frederick Abel took the chair. The Treasurers' balance sheet showed the expenditure since last Anniversary to have been £63 2s. 9d., leaving an available balance of £40 8s. 8d. The contribution was again continued at £1. The appointed twelve dinners had been held as arranged

and were attended by 183 persons, consisting of 152 members and 31 guests. It was noted that of the octogenarian honorary members one had dined thrice in the course of the year and two had each dined once.

The Club lost three members by death during the past year—Sir George H. Richards, Dr. G. Harley, and Sir Augustus Wollaston Franks.

Two members, Sir Richard Quain and Sir Joseph H. Gilbert, having attained the age of eighty were put into the Honorary List. Professor Rücker having been elected Secretary of the Royal Society was now transferred to the Official List. Hence six vacancies had arisen in the ordinary membership. There were nine candidates. After three ballots in succession had been taken five candidates were elected—Sir John Wolfe Barry, Professor Andrew Russell Forsyth, Sir William White, Frank McClean, and Professor Alfred George Greenhill. The sixth vacancy was not filled.

A motion, of which ample notice had been given, to alter Rule XII was brought forward at this meeting, and after discussion it was unanimously agreed that henceforth this Rule should read as follows: "Every Member bringing a visitor shall write his name under his own, to be laid on the table; and no visitor shall be allowed to dine till this Regulation shall have been complied with." The last clause of the Rule had previously been: "and no Visitor can be admitted into the room till this regulation shall have been complied with." The usual twelve dinners were appointed to be held, one in November, December and January, two in February, May and June, and three in March.

Of the five new members a few words may be said here. Sir John Wolfe Barry, a Civil Engineer in large practice, has interested himself in educational matters, more especially in the organisation and administration of the City and Guilds' Technical Institute, Imperial College of Science and Technology, King's College, London, and also in the National Physical Laboratory. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1895 and was created K.C.B. in 1897.

Andrew Russell Forsyth is now Chief Professor of Mathematics in the Imperial College of Science and Technology, an appointment which he accepted after resigning the Sadlerian Professorship of Pure Mathematics in the University of Cambridge. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1886.

Sir William White, trained in the Admiralty's School at the Devonport Dockyard, was chosen one of eight shipwright apprentices as students at the time when the Navy was about to be reconstructed by the replacement of wooden by iron ships. He obtained the highest diploma, and was thereafter appointed to the Admiralty Staff for the design and construction of ships for the Navy. In 1875 he was promoted to the rank of Constructor and in 1881 Chief Constructor. After a short interval, during which he was engaged as war-ship designer and manager of the war-ship building branch of the firm of Armstrong, Whitworth & Co., at Elswick on the Tyne, he returned to the Admiralty as Assistant-Controller of the Navy and Director of Naval Construction. He introduced new ideas into the building of war-ships and built many vessels of all grades. The strain of the work, into which he threw all his energies, began to affect his health and compelled him to retire from the public service in 1901. But thereafter he found ample scope for his energies in the many societies and institutions to which he belonged. He was a valued member of several of the Committees of the Royal Society, of which he became a Fellow in 1888. His public services were recognised by his being made a Knight Commander of the Bath. He died suddenly on February 27, 1913.

Frank McClean was an engineer by profession. After studying at Glasgow under Sir William Thomson he entered Trinity College, Cambridge. When later in life he had leisure to devote to science he studied the spectra of the stars and the spectrum of the high and low sun and the absorption lines due to the earth's atmosphere. He was likewise a collector of manuscripts, early printed books, coins, enamels, and ivories. In his lifetime he was a liberal

benefactor to science, and at his death in 1904 he left many generous bequests to universities and societies. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1895, and he bequeathed to the Society a legacy of £2000 for general purposes.

Alfred George Greenhill, formerly Professor of Mathematics in the Artillery College, Woolwich, has now retired. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1888 and was knighted in 1908.

1898. The Anniversary Meeting of the Club in 1898 took place on June 23rd, when there were twenty-nine members present, and the President, Lord Lister, presided. The financial statement submitted by the Treasurers showed an expenditure of £65 12s. and a surplus of £43 11s. 8d. The contribution for the year was fixed at £1.

The attendance at the twelve dinners was 181, comprising 157 members and 24 guests.

Two members had become octogenarians in the course of the year—Sir Frederick Bramwell and the Rev. Dr. Bartholomew Price—who were now placed on the Honorary List.

A vacancy was left unfilled last year, and Professor Oliver Lodge desired to resign his membership. Thus four vacancies were created, and there was a list of seven candidates. At the first ballot no candidate obtained three-fourths of the votes. At the second ballot Wyndham Rowland Dunstan, James Alfred Ewing, and Henry Alexander Miers were elected. Two subsequent ballots were taken, but as no one of the remaining candidates obtained the requisite number of votes the vacancy was left unfilled.

W. R. Dunstan, now Director of the Imperial Institute, has from time to time at the request of the Colonial Office or of Colonial Governments visited colonies and dependencies to report on their agricultural or mineral resources and has presented reports of value for the industrial development of the regions visited. He was elected F.R.S. in 1893.

Professor Ewing, Honorary Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, was Professor of Mechanism and Applied Mechanics in the University of Cambridge from 1890 to

1903, when he was appointed Director of Naval Education. This important office he resigned in the summer of 1916 to become Principal and Vice-Chancellor of his Alma Mater, the University of Edinburgh. He became F.R.S. in 1887 and was created K.C.B. in 1911.

Professor Miers, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, spent some years on the staff of the mineralogical department of the British Museum. In 1898 he was appointed Waynflete Professor of Mineralogy at Oxford, and held this chair till in 1908 he was chosen Principal of the University of London. He is now Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manchester. He was elected F.R.S. in 1896 and knighted in 1912.

A few foreigners of note dined with the Club in the course of the year. On January 27th General Ferrero, Italian Ambassador, was entertained. On June 9 Professor Frankland introduced Dmitri Ivanovich Mendeleeff. This illustrious Russian chemist was the seventeenth and youngest child of his father, Director of the Gymnasium at Tobolsk in Siberia. After finishing his education at St. Petersburg he became privat-docent at the University there, and in 1866 was appointed Professor of General Chemistry. His name is above all connected with the great Periodic Law in Chemistry which he formulated, but there is hardly any department of chemistry which has not been enriched by his researches. He extended his enquiries also into the mineralogical and geological domain. He was much interested in the origin of petroleum, and was sent by his Government to report on the working of the oil wells at Baku and in Pennsylvania. It was then a prevalent opinion that the petroleum which comes to the surface at these and other places arises from the decomposition of organic remains in the rocks below. Rejecting this explanation Mendeleeff showed that the production of mineral oil could be accounted for on the supposition that in the interior of the globe there is much metal, especially iron, in an intensely heated condition, and that this material contains carbon in solution. He held that water gaining access to such

molten masses would give rise to the production of hydrocarbons which would distil from the lower into the upper layers of the crust as oil and gas, leaving oxides of the metals below.

Alexander Agassiz, son of the Swiss naturalist already referred to (p. 329), was one of the most accomplished oceanographers of his time, and also a naturalist of great distinction. He carried on the excellent Museum established by his father at Harvard University, and enriched it with the treasures which he was able to accumulate in his numerous expeditions into the basins of the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. His wealth enabled him also to further scientific progress in many directions. In 1891 he was elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society. His personal charm as well as his scientific standing were much appreciated in this country. He died in 1910 on his voyage back from a visit to Europe.

1899. At the Anniversary Meeting held on 22nd June 1899 there were present thirty-two members, and the chair was taken by Sir Andrew Noble in the absence of the President. The balance sheet submitted by the Treasurers showed an expenditure of £63 16s. 8d. and an unexpended balance of £44 16s. The usual contribution of £1 for the ensuing year was levied.

The customary twelve dinners during the session were attended by 186 persons, comprising 157 members and 29 guests. The largest attendance was 29 at the Anniversary, and the smallest two on 2nd February.

The death of three members of the Club was announced—Sir Douglas Galton, the Father of the Club; Rev. Bartholomew Price, and John Hopkinson. At the last election of the Royal Society Mr. Alfred Braye Kempe had been chosen Treasurer in succession to Sir John Evans, who retired after twenty years' service. The transference of the new Treasurer to the *ex-officio* list made a vacancy in the ordinary membership of the Club. Four vacancies were declared, and there was a list of ten candidates. As the final result of the voting Joseph John Thomson, Ernest Howard

Griffiths, and Walter Frank Raphael Weldon were elected. The fourth place was not filled.

Lord Lister was re-elected President. As Professor Thorpe desired to retire from the Treasurership, Major P. A. MacMahon was proposed for the office, and he, together with R. H. Scott, were chosen Treasurers for the ensuing year.

Of the new members one was the present distinguished Cavendish Professor of Experimental Physics in the University of Cambridge, Sir Joseph Thomson, who is now President of the Royal Society and also President of the Club. He obtained the Fellowship of the Society in 1884.

Dr. Griffiths is the able Professor of Experimental Philosophy in the University College of South Wales who became F.R.S. in 1895.

Professor Weldon, who died at a comparatively early age, has been already alluded to (p. 467).

The most interesting visitor of the year was Sir Henry E. G. Bulwer, G.C.M.G., who dined with the Club on January 26. After an active life in which he had successively been Receiver-General of Trinidad, Administrator of Dominica, Governor of Labuan, Consul-General in Borneo, Lieutenant-Governor and afterwards Governor of Natal, and Special Commissioner for Zulu affairs and High Commissioner in Cyprus, he retired in 1892, and even after he had become an octogenarian he continued to frequent the Athenaeum, where he had many friends.

1900. At the Anniversary Meeting on 28th June 1900 the following company was present :

Lord Lister, President

Sir John C. Dalrymple Hay, Bart.	Professor Weldon
Sir W. J. Wharton	Dr. W. J. Russell
Sir William Crookes	Professor T. Clifford Allbutt
Sir J. Norman Lockyer	E. H. Griffiths
Sir Erasmus Ommaney	Alfred B. Kempe
Professor H. Debus	Frank M'Clean
Professor A. G. Greenhill	A. A. Common
Sir Archibald Geikie	Wyndham R. Dunstan
Professor James Dewar	Professor Odling
Captain E. W. Creak	Professor H. A. Miers
J. H. Gladstone	Robert H. Scott, Treasurer

The Treasurers' balance sheet showed an expenditure of £61 18s. 11d. and a balance in hand of £46 18s. 1d. The usual contribution of £1 was agreed to. The twelve dinners provided for during the session had been held and had been attended by 173 diners, comprising 146 members and 27 guests. The largest attendance was 32 at the last Anniversary; the smallest was six on January 25th and March 1.

Professor Thorpe having been elected Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society was eligible for transference to the Official List, causing a vacancy in the Ordinary membership, which, together with the place left unfilled last year, made two vacancies which were now open for election. There were eleven candidates on the list. As the result of the voting Professor Henry Edward Armstrong and Professor Edward Bagnall Poulton were elected.

The question of the fusion of this Club and the Philosophical Club was once more seriously discussed at this meeting. As the result of the discussion a motion was made "That this Anniversary Meeting of the Royal Society Club is desirous that steps shall be taken to effect an amalgamation between the Philosophical Club and this Club." This motion on a show of hands was declared by the President to be carried.

A further motion was then proposed: "That the Treasurers be requested to communicate the foregoing resolution to all the members of the Club, in order to ascertain whether they are or are not in favour of it." This motion was also declared by the President to be carried.

Lord Lister was re-elected President of the Club, and the two Treasurers were also re-elected.

Prof. Armstrong, elected into the Club at this Anniversary, is Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at the City and Guilds College, South Kensington. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1876 and was awarded the Davy Medal in 1911.

Professor Poulton since 1893 has been the Hope Professor of Zoology in the University of Oxford. He was elected into the Royal Society in 1889. He has been President of the Entomological Society and of the Linnaean Society, and

is the author of many memoirs on zoological subjects as well as separate volumes of essays.

Two foreigners of note were visitors to the Club this year. On 14th June Dr. J. H. Gladstone introduced the distinguished Italian chemist Giacomo Ciamician, Professor of General Chemistry in the University of Bologna, and on the same day Professor William Ramsay brought as his guest Dr. Raffaello Nasini, who was Professor of General Chemistry in the University of Pisa and Professor Ciamician's son-in-law. Among the English visitors the name of Sir Martin Conway appears on the list of 22 February.

At a special meeting of the Club on 15th November, attended by twenty members, with Admiral Sir John D. Hay in the chair, the Treasurers reported that they had carried out the instructions given to them at the last Anniversary Meeting with regard to the question of amalgamation with the Philosophical Club. To their circular addressed to the members of the Royal Society Club they had received forty replies, of which twenty-five approved of the proposed union and five disapproved. Professor W. G. Adams, Treasurer of the Philosophical Club, who was present, stated in general terms the results of the discussion on the subject at the Philosophical Club. It was then moved: "That the Philosophical Club be requested to join with this Club in appointing a Committee to consider what steps should be taken to effect an amalgamation of the two Clubs." This motion was unanimously adopted, and should the Philosophical Club agree to the proposal, it was decided that the Royal Society Club would appoint as their representatives on the Committee Sir F. Abel, The Astronomer Royal, Sir John Evans, Dr. R. H. Scott, Prof. W. G. Adams, and Major MacMahon.

As provided by the Rules, the Club at its ordinary meeting on December 6th elected, as member and President of the Club, Sir William Huggins, who had been chosen President of the Royal Society on St. Andrew's Day, and who, having been invited to join the Club as its President, had signified his consent.

1901. The Anniversary Meeting in the year 1901 was held on 27th June and was attended by twenty-eight members, with Sir Andrew Noble, K.C.B., in the chair. The Treasurers submitted a financial statement which showed that the expenses since the last Anniversary had amounted to £77 11s. 2d., leaving at the bank a balance of £36 7s. 11d. The number of dinners had been eleven, that appointed for 31st January having been cancelled on account of the death of Queen Victoria. The total number of persons who dined was 192, composed of 159 members and 33 visitors. Sir John Dalrymple Hay having attained the age of eighty now entered the Honorary List, but the election of an Ordinary member to fill the vacancy thus caused was deferred.

The death of two Honorary Members was reported—Lord Armstrong and Dr. William Pole.

The senior Treasurer gave a summary of the proceedings of the Joint-Committee, by which a series of draft rules for the union of the two Clubs had been drawn up. The Committee was constituted as follows: Three members representing both Clubs, viz. Sir F. Abel, Sir John Evans, and Prof. W. G. Adams; three representing the Royal Society Club, the Astronomer Royal, R. H. Scott, and Major MacMahon; and three representing the Philosophical Club, Dr. W. T. Blanford, Professor Judd, and Professor Meldola. This Committee had held three meetings and had drawn up a series of proposed Rules. These having been put into type were submitted to the Philosophical Club at its Anniversary meeting on May 2nd, and were then adopted by that Club with certain verbal modifications.

The proposed Rules, as thus modified, had been distributed among the members of the Royal Society Club for consideration at this Anniversary Meeting.

The Rules as finally adjusted were as follows:

RULES OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY CLUB

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE PHILOSOPHICAL CLUB.

Established in 1743.

I. THE Club shall consist of *sixty-six* Ordinary Members, who must be Fellows of the Royal Society, in addition to the following

who shall be Members *ex-officio*, viz. : the President, the Treasurer, the two Secretaries, and the Foreign Secretary of the Royal Society ; and the Astronomer Royal ; and also of the Honorary Members. Upon any Fellow becoming entitled, from his official position in the Royal Society, to be a Member of this Club, the Treasurers of the Club be instructed to ask him, whether it be his intention to take advantage of such privilege, and to become permanently a *Subscribing Member*.

II. The President of the Royal Society on joining the Club shall be its President. *Three* Treasurers shall be elected by ballot at each Anniversary. No Treasurer shall hold office continuously for more than three years, the Senior Treasurers shall retire each year, but a retiring Treasurer shall be re-eligible for election after the space of one year. The Treasurers shall order and arrange the time and place of meeting of the Club, and summon Special Meetings when deemed necessary. They shall receive the subscription of Members, and keep the accounts of the Club ; they shall prepare and issue all notices, regulate the dinners, and the Senior Treasurer present shall act as Vice-Chairman. It shall also be the duty of the Treasurers to keep a register of all Meetings of the Club, and make a minute of all resolutions which may be adopted.

III. The Anniversary Meeting at which the Annual Election of Officers and Members shall take place shall be held on the *Thursday in the week* on which the Royal Society Meetings close for the Vacation.

IV. At the Meetings the chair shall be taken by the *President of the Club*. If he should not be present *the senior Member of the Club* shall preside. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to regulate and control all ballots and discussions in the Club, and to bring forward, or to invite Members of the Club to bring forward, any correspondence or scientific subject worthy of consideration.

V. Candidates for election shall be proposed, in writing, by three Members. The proposal shall be transmitted to one of the Treasurers of the Club, and read at the next Meeting.

VI. The mode of election of Members shall be as follows, viz. : the President having declared the number of vacancies, each Member, being supplied with a list of Candidates, shall write on a slip of paper the names of those he desires to vote for, which shall be read out by the President.

VII. No person shall be deemed elected as a Member, unless he shall have at least three-fourths of the Votes of those present in his favour. At the Anniversary Meeting sixteen Members shall form a *quorum*.

VIII. Any Member who has not attended the Club at least *once* in any year shall be reminded of the circumstance, and if in the course of the succeeding year he do not once attend, he shall no

longer be a Member of the Club, unless the Club shall otherwise order. It shall still be open to the Club to re-elect him a Member, provided that he be duly proposed.

IX. Any Member of at least *twenty-five years' standing*, or who has attained the *age of eighty years*, may, on his request in writing, have his name transferred from the list of Ordinary Members of the Club to that of Honorary Members, and shall not be called upon for any Annual Subscription.

X. Any Member going abroad, and declaring his intention to that effect, shall be considered as an Honorary Member during his absence, without paying his Annual Contribution; but his absence shall cause a vacancy which may be filled up. On his return he shall be admitted to the Meetings of the Club on the usual terms, and be readmitted without an Entrance Fee as an Ordinary Member on the first Vacancy, on his signifying a wish to be so readmitted.

XI. The Meetings of the Club shall be held on such days as shall be appointed for the ensuing year at the Anniversary Meeting.¹

XII. The Treasurers shall submit their accounts to the Club at the Anniversary Meeting, when the amount of the succeeding year's Subscription shall be fixed; and it is expected that every Member will pay his Subscription as soon as possible.

XIII. Every Member of the Club on his first admission shall pay an entrance fee of Two Guineas, in addition to the annual Contribution.

XIV. Every Member of the Club shall have the privilege of introducing one Visitor; but the President shall not be so limited.

XV. The name of every visitor shall be written opposite to that of the Member introducing him.

XVI. *The Treasurers may invite in the name of the Club any distinguished Foreign, Indian or Colonial man of science not permanently resident in this country.*

XVII. No Visitor shall be admitted on the Anniversary of the Club.

XVIII. No change shall be made in these Rules, nor any new ones added, except at the Anniversary Meeting by Resolution, notice of which must be given at least at two Meetings of the Club previously.

NOTE.—*Recommendation.* Honorary or Supernumerary Members of either Club shall be Honorary Members of the Royal Society Club.

As the result of the discussions at this Anniversary Meeting the Club decided that the Rules as now finally

¹ A card of the Meetings is issued annually to each Member.

amended and adopted should be transmitted to the Joint-Committee with the request that this Committee would carry out the details of the arrangements required for the amalgamation of the Clubs.

It was further decided that in the coming session the meetings of the Club should be on the days of meeting of the Royal Society, with the addition of one meeting in October. The subscription for the coming session was fixed at £1 10s.

The two Treasurers of the Royal Society Club, R. H. Scott and Major MacMahon, were reappointed. To them was added the Treasurer of the Philosophical Club, Professor W. G. Adams, so that henceforth the united Club would have three Treasurers.

Thus, after ten years of consideration the two Clubs were at last joined into one. The name of the older Club was retained as the ordinary designation of the united body, but with the addition, when desirable, of a line with words expressing that it includes the younger institution incorporated with it. The united membership was thus greatly increased in number and in strength. It consisted of sixty-five ordinary members, nine *ex-officio* members, including the President, and seventeen honorary members. Not only were the two Clubs united to each other, they were also in some respects more closely bound up with the proceedings of the Royal Society. The arrangement that members of the Club should dine together on the evening of every afternoon when an ordinary meeting of the Society takes place at once removed the long-standing inconvenience of the difficulty of remembering whether a meeting-day of the Society happened also to be a day on which one or other of the Clubs was to meet. Henceforth there would always be a Club dinner to follow the meeting of the Society. Moreover, these dinners which had once been held every week in the year but had in course of time dwindled down to twelve in the year, now immediately rose to twenty-one. The number has since been augmented, so that in the year 1916-17 it is now twenty-six, exactly half the number which

was maintained during three-fourths of the first century of the Club's history.

The first meeting of the conjoined Clubs took place on 31st October, when a company numbering thirty-eight members with five guests sat down to dinner in Limmer's Hotel. It included many eminent men now no longer living—Lord Lister, Sir William Huggins, Sir J. Burdon Sanderson, Sir Charles W. Wilson, Admiral Sir John D. Hay, Admiral Sir William Wharton, Sir Henry Roscoe, Sir Lauder Brunton, Francis Galton, Professor Rücker, Dr. J. H. Gladstone, Sir William C. Roberts-Austen and others, as well as some of distinction who still happily attend the meetings. No record has been preserved of this meeting beyond the list of those present.

1902. The first Anniversary of the united Club was held on 19th June 1902, when the following company assembled :

Sir Frederick Abel, Chairman in the absence of the President

Lord Rosse	Prof. C. V. Boys
Sir G. G. Stokes	Sir Andrew Noble
Sir Archibald Geikie	Prof. Reinold
Sir Charles Wilson	Dr. W. J. Russell
Sir William Crookes	Prof. J. Larmor
Sir Frederick Bramwell	Prof. Liveing
Sir William Wharton	Captain Creak
Dr. P. L. Sclater	Mr. A. A. Common
Prof. J. W. Judd	Prof. J. H. Gladstone
Dr. W. T. Blanford	Prof. Henry A. Miers
Prof. E. B. Poulton	Dr. Hugo Müller
Mr. Lazarus Fletcher	Mr. Frank M'Clean
Mr. A. B. Kempe	Prof. Raphael Meldola
Sir J. T. Thornycroft	Mr. R. H. Scott
Prof. Clifford-Allbutt	Major MacMahon
Dr. A. G. Vernon Harcourt	Prof. W. G. Adams
Prof. A. G. Greenhill	

} Treasurers

The balance sheet submitted by the Treasurers showed an expenditure of £109 15s. and a balance at the bank of £41 11s. 11d. The subscription for the ensuing year was fixed at £1 10s. The number of dinners since the previous Anniversary had been 21. These had been attended by 267 members and 29 guests, making a total attendance of

296. The largest company was that which assembled at the beginning of the session on 31st October ; the smallest attendance was on 20th February, when only four members appeared. The dates of twenty-one meetings in the coming session were fixed to coincide with the meeting-days of the Royal Society.

The death of Sir Joseph H. Gilbert was announced. Sir William White, on account of the state of his health, had resigned his membership. Professor Larmor having been appointed one of the Secretaries of the Royal Society was eligible for the *ex-officio* list. There were likewise three vacancies which remained over from last year. There were thus five vacant places to be filled. As the result of the voting the following candidates were elected :

Professor Richard Tetley Glazebrook, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Director of the National Physical Laboratory ; Captain Henry B. Jackson, F.R.S., now Admiral, K.C.B., and lately Chief of the War Staff ; Professor Herbert Hall Turner, D.Sc., F.R.S., Savilian Professor of Astronomy in the University of Oxford ; Frank Evers Beddard, M.A., F.R.S., Prosector of the Zoological Society and George Matthey, F.R.S., an eminent metallurgist.

Mr. R. H. Scott resigned the office of Treasurer which he had held for seventeen years. On the proposal of Sir Andrew Noble a small committee was formed for the purpose of presenting to him a souvenir as an expression of the Club's appreciation of his long and valuable service. The testimonial ultimately took the form of a silver inkstand bearing a suitable inscription.

The small number of foreign visitors to the Club this year included the Privat-Docent Claude Du Bois-Reymond who was teaching physiology at the German Medical School at Shanghai, thus following in the footsteps of his illustrious father in the University of Berlin. He was the guest of Dr. Lauder Brunton on 1st May. Professor William Ramsay brought as his guest on 20th March Professor Abegg from Breslau. Among the English guests were Sir Benjamin Baker, the designer of the Forth Bridge, the Right Hon.

Horace Plunkett, the well-known Irish administrator; and Sir Lewis Morris, author of the *Epic of Hades*.

The membership of the Club at this Anniversary is shown on the subjoined List, which was issued to each member together with a notice of the dates of the meetings for the ensuing session.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY CLUB.

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE PHILOSOPHICAL CLUB.

1902-3.

PRESIDENT.

1870. Huggins, Sir W., K.C.B., D.C.L., LL.D., P.R.S.

HONORARY MEMBERS.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1874. Bramwell, Sir F. J., Bart.,
D.C.L. | 1879. Lister, Lord, M.D., D.C.L.,
LL.D. |
| 1867. Buckton, G. B. | 1881. Newton, Prof. A., M.A. |
| 1870. Foster, Sir M., K.C.B.,
LL.D. | 1889. Ommanney, Adm. Sir E.,
C.B. |
| 1866. Galton, Francis, M.A.,
D.C.L. | 1871. Salisbury, The Marquess of,
K.G. |
| 1873. Günther, A. C. L., M.A.,
Ph.D. | 1862. Sclater, P. L., Ph.D. |
| 1864. Hay, Adm. Rt. Hon. Sir
J. D., Bt., G.C.B.,
D.C.L. | 1866. Simon, Sir J., K.C.B.,
D.C.L., LL.D. |
| 1847. Hooker, Sir J. D., G.C.S.I. | 1855. Stokes, Sir G. G., Bart.,
LL.D. |
| 1890. Kelvin, Lord, D.C.L.,
LL.D. | 1865. Strachey, Sir R., G.C.S.I. |
| | 1860. Williamson, Prof. A. W.,
D.C.L., LL.D. |

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.

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|--|--|
| 1884. Christie, W. H. M., C.B.,
M.A. | 1874. Rayleigh, Lord, M.A.,
D.Sc. |
| 1868. Evans, Sir John, K.C.B.,
D.C.L. | 1886. Rücker, Sir A. W., M.A.,
D.Sc. |
| 1890. Geikie, Sir A., D.Sc., LL.D. | 1886. Thorpe, Prof. T. E., C.B.,
D.Sc., LL.D. |
| 1889. Kempe, A. B., M.A. | |
| 1900. Larmor, J., M.A., D.Sc. | |

ORDINARY MEMBERS.

- | | |
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| 1888. Abney, Capt. Sir W. de W.,
R.E., K.C.B., D.C.L. | 1900. Armstrong, Prof. H. E.,
LL.D. |
| 1889. Adams, Prof. W. G.,
D.Sc. | 1860. Avebury, Lord, D.C.L.,
LL.D. |

1897. Barry, Sir J. Wolfe, K.C.B.
 1902. Beddard, F. E., M.A., F.Z.S.
 1886. Blanford, W. T., LL.D.
 1881. Bonney, Rev. Prof. T. G., D.Sc.
 1895. Boys, Prof. C. V.
 1887. Brunton, Sir T. Lauder, M.D.
 1890. Clifford-Allbutt, Prof. T., M.D.
 1886. Clifton, Prof. R. B., M.A.
 1892. Common, A. A., LL.D.
 1889. Creak, Capt. E. W., R.N., C.B.
 1882. Crookes, Sir William.
 1893. Dallinger, Rev. W. H., LL.D.
 1894. Darwin, Francis, M.A.
 1874. Debus, Heinrich, Ph.D.
 1881. Dewar, Prof. James, M.A., LL.D.
 1898. Dunstan, Wyndham R., M.A.
 1898. Ewing, Prof. James, B.Sc.
 1890. Fletcher, L., M.A.
 1897. Forsyth, Prof. A. R., M.A., D.Sc.
 1896. Foster, Prof. G. Carey, B.A.
 1881. Gladstone, Prof. J. H., D.Sc.
 1902. Glazebrook, R. T., M.A.
 1889. Godman, F. D., D.C.L.
 1897. Greenhill, Prof. A. G., M.A.
 1899. Griffiths, Principal E. H., M.A.
 1881. Harcourt, A. G. Vernon, LL.D.
 1890. Horsley, Sir Victor, B.S., M.D.
 1892. Hudleston, W. H., M.A.
 1902. Jackson, Capt. H. B., R.N.
 1886. Judd, Prof. J. W., C.B.
 1900. Langley, J. N., M.A., D.Sc.
 1891. Liveing, Prof. G. D., M.A.
 1885. Lockyer, Sir J. Norman, K.C.B.
 1895. MacMahon, Major P. A., D.Sc.
 1873. Maskelyne, N. Story, M.A.
 1902. Matthey, G.
 1897. McClean, F., LL.D.
 1898. Meldola, Prof. R.
 1898. Miers, Prof. Henry A., M.A.
 1895. Mond, L., Ph.D.
 1875. Müller, Hugo, LL.D.
 1871. Noble, Sir A., Bart., K.C.B.
 1868. Odling, Prof. W., M.A.
 1900. Poulton, Prof. E. B., M.A.
 1895. Ramsay, Sir W., K.C.B., D.Sc., LL.D.
 1891. Reinold, Prof. A. W., M.A.
 1893. Roberts-Austen, Prof. Sir W., K.C.B.
 1880. Roscoe, Sir H., D.C.L., LL.D.
 1875. Rosse, the Earl of, K.P., D.C.L., LL.D.
 1879. Russell, W. J., Ph.D.
 1874. Sanderson, Sir J. S. Burdon, Bart., LL.D.
 1880. Scott, Robert H., M.A., D.Sc.
 1900. Teall, J. J. H., M.A.
 1898. Thomson, Prof. J. J., M.A., D.Sc.
 1898. Thornycroft, Sir J. I.
 1897. Tilden, Prof. W. A., D.Sc.
 1902. Turner, Prof. H. H., D.Sc.
 1881. Tylor, Prof. E. B., D.C.L.
 1899. Weldon, Prof. W. F. R., M.A.
 1886. Wharton, Rear-Adm. Sir W. J. L., K.C.B.
 1887. Wilson, Col. Sir C. W., K.C.B.

Prof. W. G. Adams, Major MacMahon, and Prof. C. V. Boys,

Treasurers

Having brought the story of the Royal Society Club from its earliest beginnings down to the time of its union with the Philosophical Club, I have reached the limit at which it seemed to me most fitting that my narrative should end. The Club's varying fortunes during more than a century and a half have been followed in the foregoing pages, and at the end of that long period it is found to have lost none of its early vitality, but has a larger membership than ever before, with an ample number of candidates for admission, and with its affiliation to the Royal Society more firmly established.

That a future lies before the Club even more successful than its past may be confidently anticipated. Already fifteen years have slipped away since the date at which the present history comes to a close, and these years have furnished fresh tests of the vigour and usefulness of the Club. They have supplied opportunities of which the Club has promptly availed itself, to show its hospitality on a wider field than was ever before open to it. The Royal Society has celebrated the 250th year of its corporate existence with a large concourse of eminent representatives from the Universities and learned academies both of the Old World and of the New. It has also on different occasions been visited by the foreign delegates of several international associations for purposes of co-operation in scientific undertakings. At each of these times the Club has borne a willing and effective share in the hospitable welcome of the visitors. It has thus more fitly than ever earned the name of the Dining-Club of the Royal Society, and its prosperity is still more closely linked with that of the venerable Society whose name it bears. *Vivat, crescat, floreat!*

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¹ The date of his death given in the text on the authority of Sir John Barrow's *Sketches of the Royal Society* is inaccurate; it should have been 24th February, 1810.

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